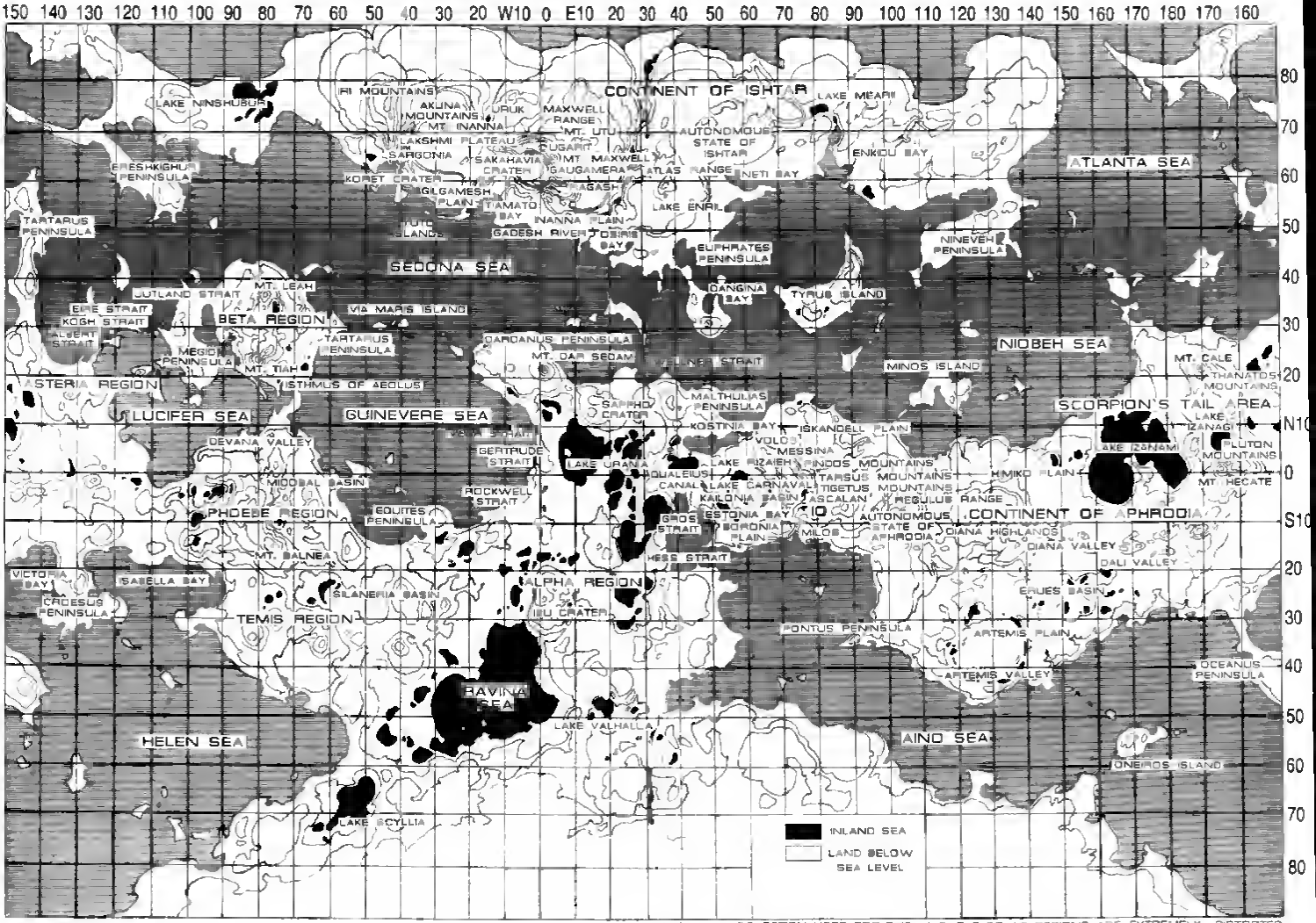
DARK HORSE TRADING CARDS INSIDE!

The Genesis WARS

1 FIRST ISSUE!

By YOSHIKAZU YASUHIKO

STUDIO PROTEUS


WORLD MAP OF VENUS (SHOWING REGIONS FEATURED IN THE STORY)
150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 W10 0 E10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 170 160
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
S10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
CONTINENT OF ISHTAR
AUTONOMOUS STATE OF ISHTAR
LAKE MEAD
LAKE NINSHUBUR
RI MOUNTAINS
AKUNA MOUNTAINS
MT. INANNA
URUK
MAXWELL RANGE
MT. UTU
LAKSHMI PLATEAU
SARGONIA
SAKAHAVIA CRATER
UGARIT
MT. MAXWELL
GAUGAMERA
ATLAS RANGE
ENKIDU BAY
NETI BAY
ATLANTA SEA
FRESHKIGHU PENINSULA
KORET CRATER
GILGAMESH PLAIN
TIAMATO BAY
AGASH
INANNA PLAIN
LAKE ENRIL
TARTARUS PENINSULA
LUTO LANDS
GADESH RIVER
COMUS BAY
EUPHRATES PENINSULA
NINEVEH PENINSULA
SEDONA SEA
JUTLAND STRAIT
MT. LEAH
ERE STRAIT
KOSH STRAIT
ALBERT STRAIT
BETA REGION
VIA MARIS ISLAND
GANGINA BAY
TYRUS ISLAND
MEGIDO PENINSULA
MT. TIAH
TARTARUS PENINSULA
CARDANUS PENINSULA
MT. DAR SEDAM
NIOBEH SEA
MINOS ISLAND
MT. CALE
THANATOS MOUNTAINS
STERIA REGION
ISTHMUS OF AEOLUS
LUCIFER SEA
GUINEVERE SEA
SAPPHO CRATER
MALTHUSIAS PENINSULA
KOSTNIA BAY
ISKANDELL PLAIN
VOLOS
MESSINA
SCORPION'S TAIL AREA
LAKE IZANAGI
PLUTON MOUNTAINS
DEVANA VALLEY
GERTRUDE STRAIT
LAKE URANA
LAKE FIZAIEH
PINDOS MOUNTAINS
LAKE IZANAMI
MIOBAL BASIN
EQUALEUS CANAL
LAKE CARNAVAL
TAMSUS MOUNTAINS
HIMIKO PLAIN
MT. HECATE
ROCKWELL STRAIT
TIGETUS MOUNTAINS
ASCALAN
REGULUS RANGE
PHOEBE REGION
EQUITES PENINSULA
GROS STRAIT
ESTONIA BAY
BORONIA PLAIN
IO
AUTONOMOUS STATE OF APHRODIA
CONTINENT OF APHRODIA
DIANA HIGHLANDS
DIANA VALLEY
DALI VALLEY
MT. BALNEA
HESS STRAIT
VICTORIA BAY
ISABELLA BAY
CRESUS PENINSULA
SLANERIA BASIN
ALPHA REGION
IRU CRATER
EDUES BASIN
TEMIS REGION
PONTUS PENINSULA
ARTEMIS PLAIN
ARTEMIS VALLEY
OCEANUS PENINSULA
RAVINA SEA
LAKE VALHALLA
HELEN SEA
AINO SEA
ONEIROS ISLAND
LAKE SCYLLIA
INLAND SEA
LAND BELOW SEA LEVEL
* DUE TO THE PROJECTION USED FOR THIS MAP, THE POLAR REGIONS ARE EXTREMELY DISTORTED

YOSHIKAZU YASUHIKO'S
THE
VENUS
WARS

AUGUST, 2002 A.D

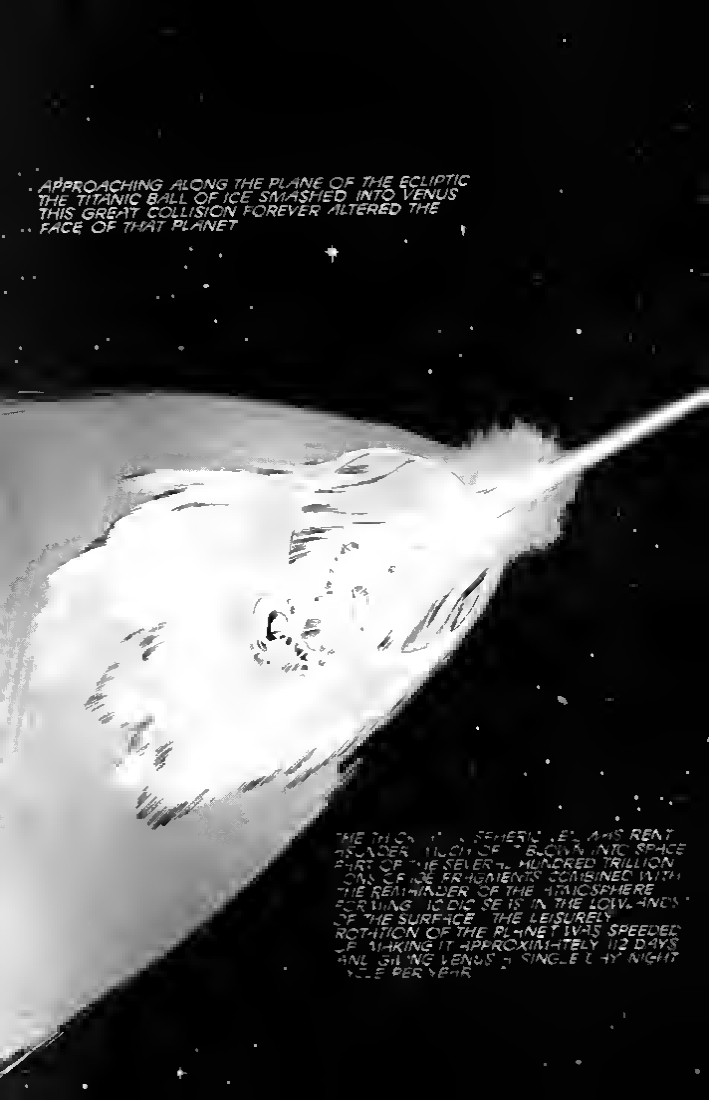
IT WAS FIRST DETECTED BY THE SOKOLOV OBSERVATORY IN NORTH AMERICA

IT PASSED THROUGH THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM 65 000 ASTRONOMICAL UNITS FROM EARTH

AND ENTERED THE REALM OF THE INNER PLANETS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE THOUSAND YEARS

A GIANT WORLD OF ICE-- THE ASTEROID **APOLLON**

MAY 12, 2003

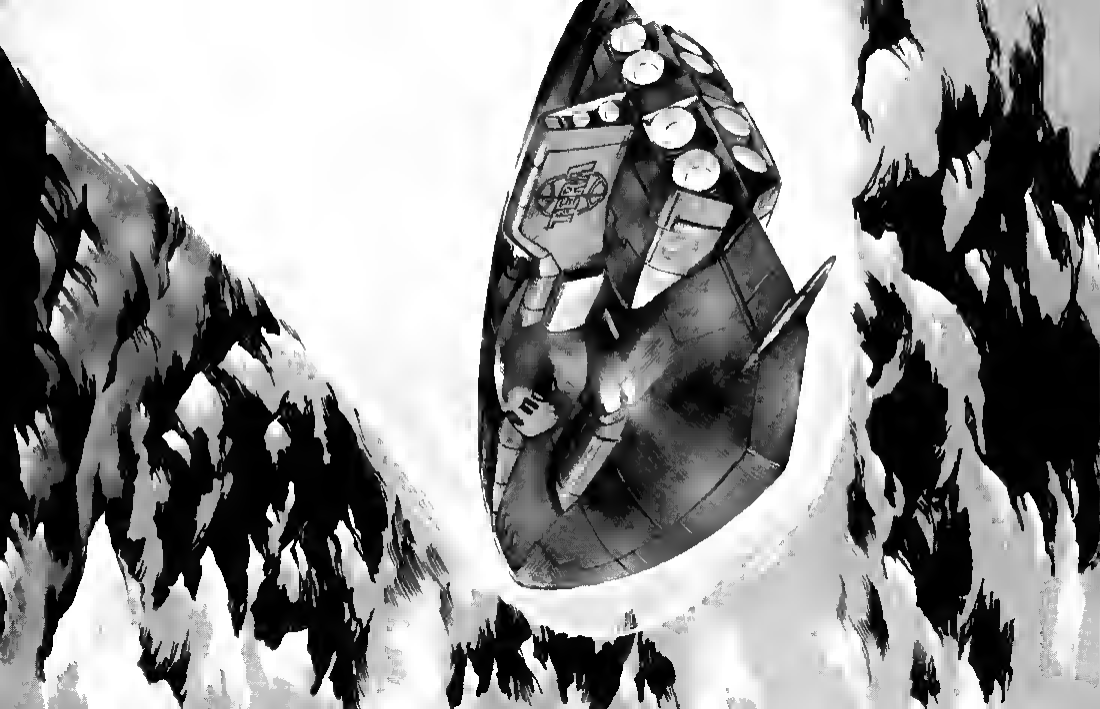

APPROACHING ALONG THE PLANE OF THE ECLIPTIC THE TITANIC BALL OF ICE SMASHED INTO VENUS THIS GREAT COLLISION FOREVER ALTERED THE FACE OF THAT PLANET
THE IMPACT OF A SPHERICAL BODY WAS RENT ASUNDER, MUCH OF IT BLOWN INTO SPACE PART OF THE SEVERAL HUNDRED TRILLION TONS OF ICE FRAGMENTS COMBINED WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE ATMOSPHERE FORMING NOCTICE IS IN THE LOWLANDS OF THE SURFACE. THE LEISURELY ROTATION OF THE PLANET WAS SPEEDED UP MAKING IT APPROXIMATELY 112 DAYS AND GIVING VENUS A SINGLE DAY NIGHT CYCLE PER YEAR

AND SO, IN AN INSTANT, VENUS WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A HABITABLE PLANET, A NEAR-SISTER TO THE EARTH. NOW IT SEEMED TO AWAIT ONLY THE FINISHING TOUCHES OF TERRA-FORMING AT THE HANDS OF MAN. AND, AS ALWAYS, HUMANITY ROSE TO THE OCCASION

THE FIRST MANNED SPACESHIP LANDED ON VENUS IN 2007.
THE FIRST IMMIGRANT PARTY SET FOOT ON THE NORTHERN CONTINENT OF ISHTAR IN 2012.
THAT WAS THE FIRST YEAR OF THE FIRST VENUSIAN CENTURY.

AND IN THE VENUSIAN YEAR 72-- EARTH YEAR 2083..

OUR STORY BEGINS.



ヴォナス戦記
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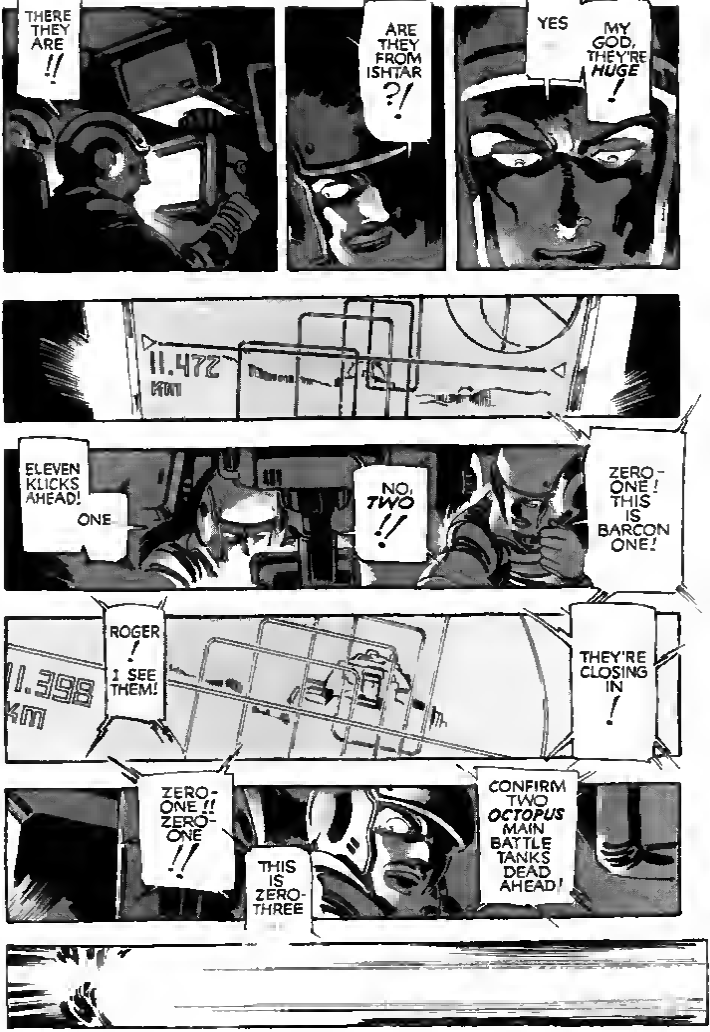
ORIGINAL EDITOR: MASASHI NARITA
SPECIAL THANKS TO KAZUYA SHIOIRI AND DANA LEWIS

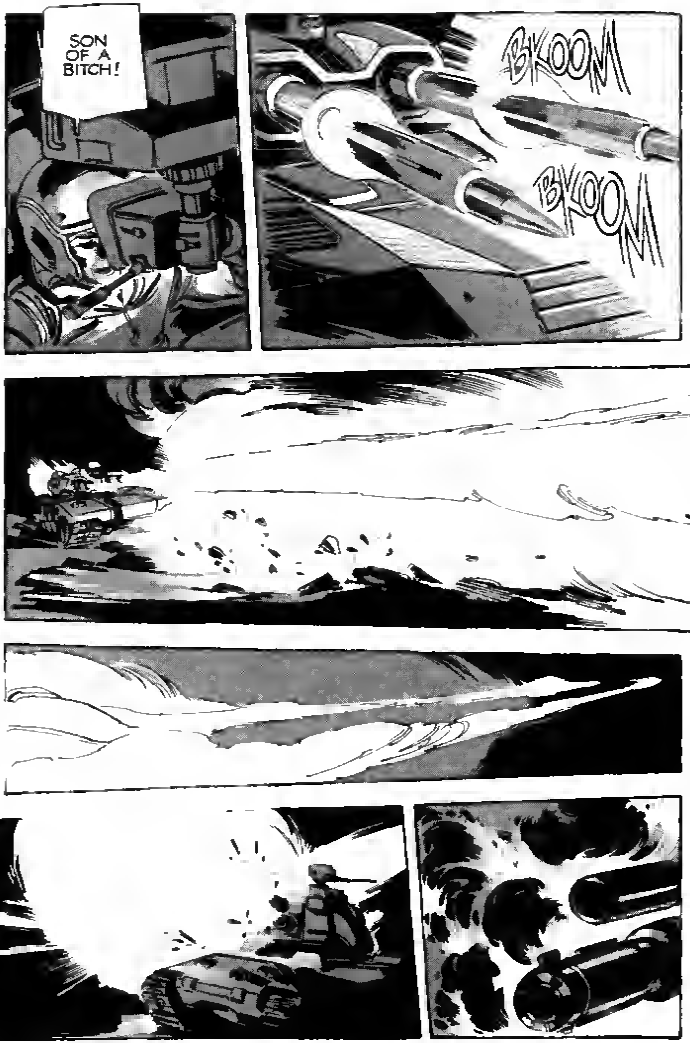

THERE THEY ARE !!
ARE THEY FROM ISHTAR ?!
YES
MY GOD, THEY'RE HUGE !
11.472 km
ELEVEN KLICKS AHEAD!
ONE
NO, TWO !!
ZERO-ONE! THIS IS BARCON ONE!
ROGER ! I SEE THEM!
11.398 km
THEY'RE CLOSING IN !
ZERO-ONE !! ZERO-ONE !!
THIS IS ZERO-THREE
CONFIRM TWO OCTOPUS MAIN BATTLE TANKS DEAD AHEAD!

BROOT
ZERO-THREE TWO AWAY!

VRR VRRM
GRNGRNGRNGRN

BLAM
BLAM
SPANG
SPANG
WHRAMM

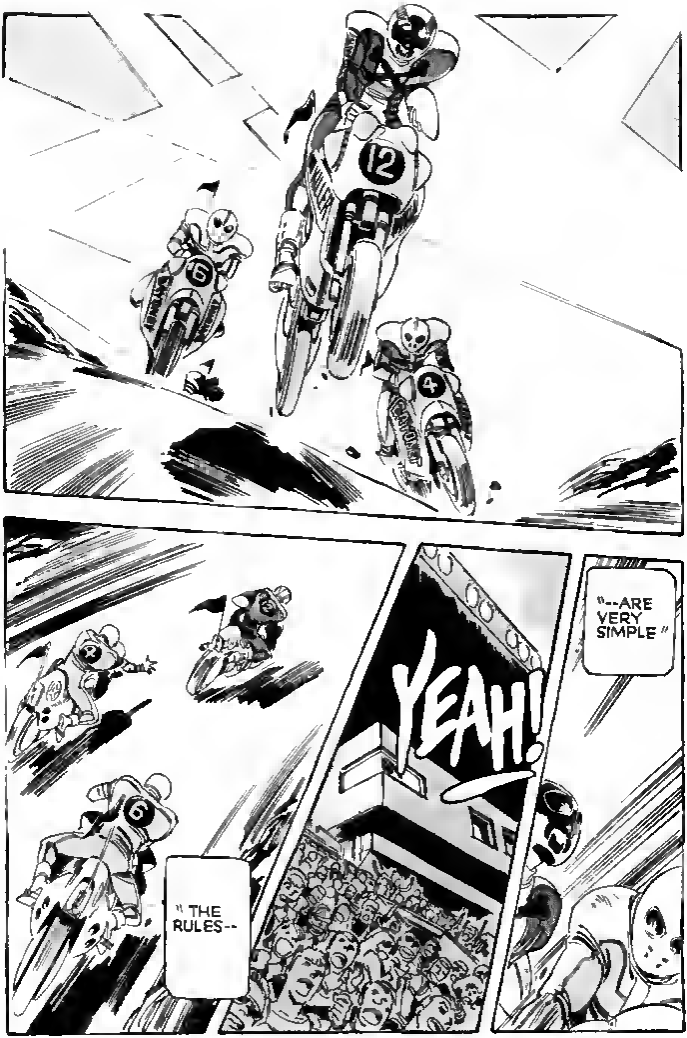
WHOOM
THE PRIMARY COMBAT VEHICLE OF THE ISHTAR ARMY. THE ADMIRAL A-1 MAIN BATTLE TANK COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "OCTOPUS" OPERATIONAL WEIGHT 110 TONS


SON OF A BITCH!
BKOOM
BKOOM

RAMM
KRAK
GRNGRNGRNGRN
!
No!
AAA!

WHOOM
GRNGRNGRN
GRNGRNGRNGRN
SKREEEEEEE

IO, THE CAPITAL CITY OF APHRODIA
TALAK BATTLE-BIKE STADIUM


12
6
4
2
6
"THE RULES--
YEAH!
"--ARE VERY SIMPLE"

"I CARRY THE BATON, AND IF YOU GET IT INTO YOUR OPPONENT'S GOAL.
"...YOU SCORE TWO POINTS
"EACH TEAM HAS FIFTEEN PLAYERS
SKRASHH
"THE REAL ATTRACTION, HOWEVER...
"...IS NOT SO MUCH THE GOALS, AS THE CRASHES"

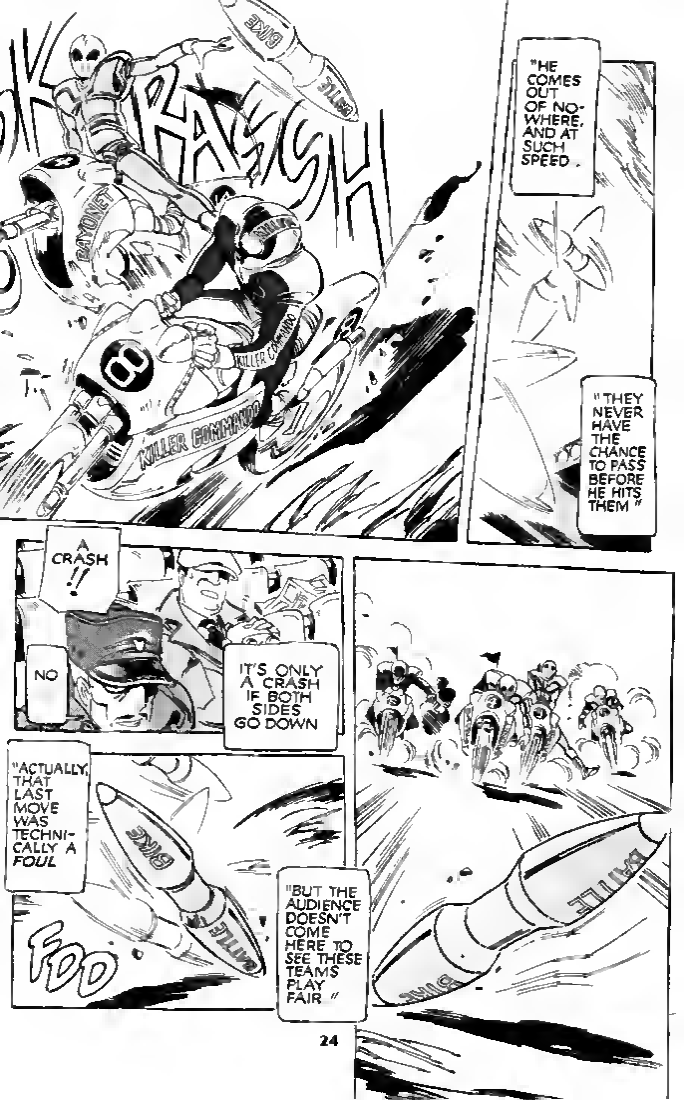
THE VENUS WARS continues after special insert...

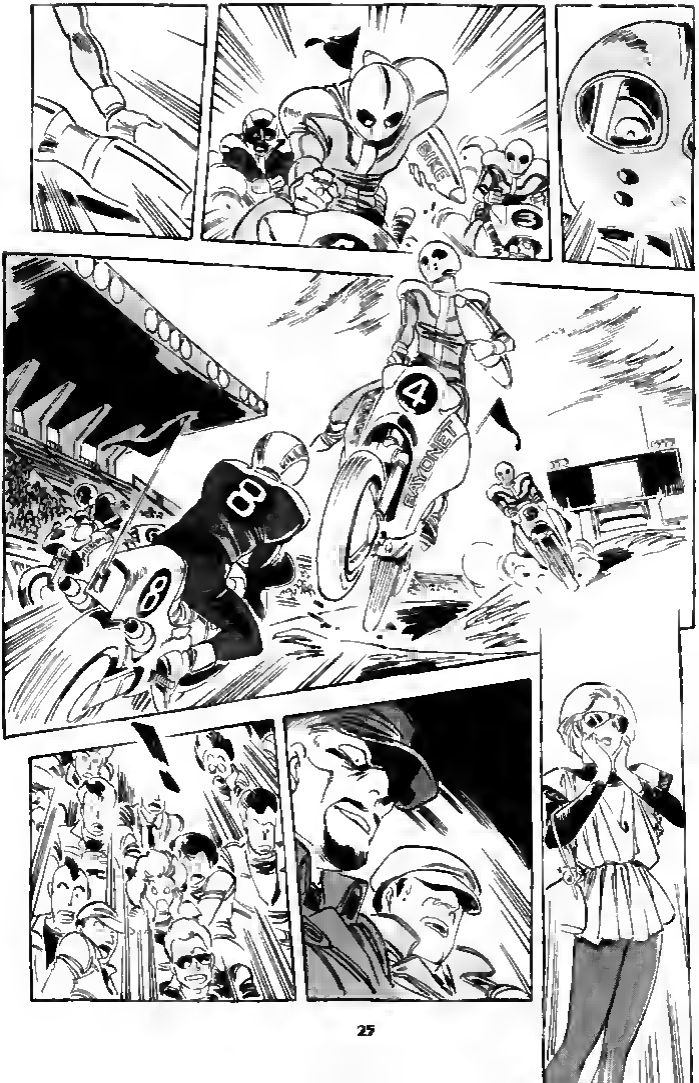
GAME 2
SCORE
8-10
CRASH
KC
BA
GO KILL 'EM
AAAH!
VRMM
VRMM
VRMM
VRMM
VRMMMM
VVRRAAAAAAA

WHO'S THAT ?
THE WOMAN IN THE CHARIOT ?
SHE'S CALLED THE TEAM QUEEN
"QUEEN" ?
SAD... IT SEEMS TO BE THE WAY OF HUMAN NATURE, THOUGH ADULTS CORRUPT THE YOUNG WITH EVIL IDEAS
"SHE'S SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT THE SPIRIT OF VENUS JUST AS HER NAME SUGGESTS, SHE'S THE RULER OF THE TEAM
"SHE DIRECTS THE MOVEMENTS OF THE RIDERS ON HER TEAM, SOMETIMES EVEN COMMANDING THEM TO CRASH INTO THEIR OPPONENTS"
VRMM

THERE! THAT'S HIM!
NUMBER EIGHT, ON THE RED BIKE!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK..
WATCH HOW HE MOVES..
GAIN 150 YARDS
=GULP!=
BATTLE
BIKE
VRAAAA

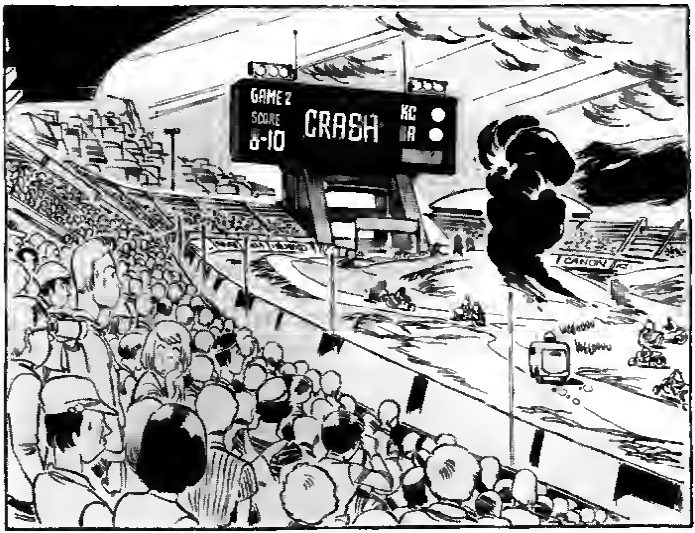
WHDD
SKREEEE
THUK
THILLER
"YOU LOSE POINTS IF YOU'RE HIT WHILE CARRYING THE BATON, SO -- IN THEORY AT LEAST -- YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PASS BEFORE YOU GET CAUGHT.
"PARTICULARLY IF YOUR OPPONENT IS SOMEONE LIKE NUMBER EIGHT THERE."
HOW-EVER...
YRAAA
8

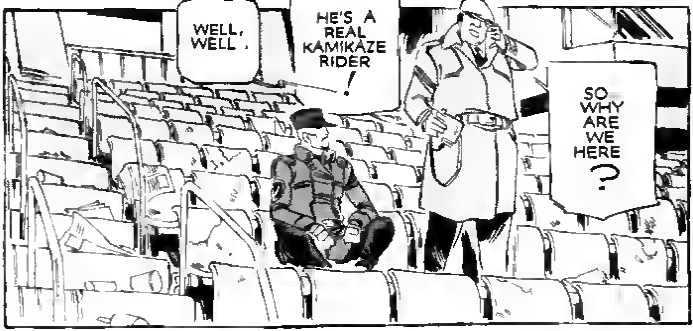

"HE COMES OUT OF NOWHERE, AND AT SUCH SPEED"
"THEY NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO PASS BEFORE HE HITS THEM"
RAESH
BAYONET
KILLER CHAMPRO
A CRASH!!
NO
IT'S ONLY A CRASH IF BOTH SIDES GO DOWN
"ACTUALLY, THAT LAST MOVE WAS TECHNICALLY A FOUL"
"BUT THE AUDIENCE DOESN'T COME HERE TO SEE THESE TEAMS PLAY FAIR"
FOO


BIKE
4
EATONET
8

BAM

CRASH


GAME 2
SCORE
6-10
CRASH
KC
CANON


WELL, WELL.
HE'S A REAL KAMIKAZE RIDER!
SO WHY ARE WE HERE?

DON'T YOU SEE, COLONEL ?
HE MAY BE UNSUITED FOR GAMES LIKE THIS..
BUT HE'S PERFECT FOR THE ARMY
HE'S THE SORT WHO DOESN'T CARE IF HE LIVES OR DIES
.....

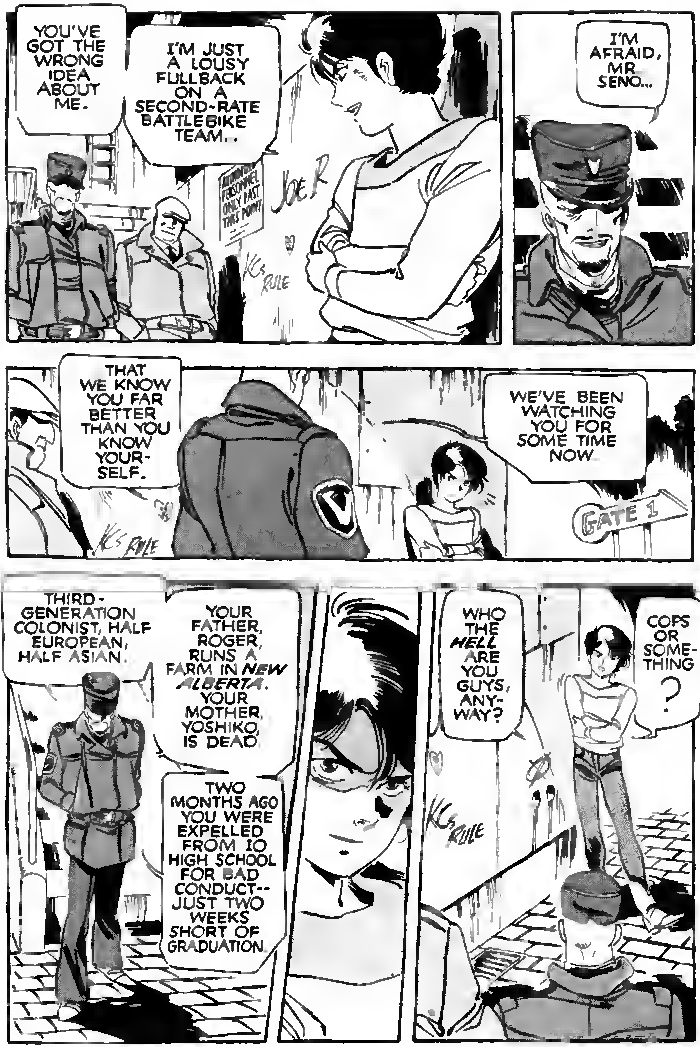
KEN!
KEN! YOU CAN'T! YOU'LL BE HURT AGAIN!
WOULD YOU LISTEN TO ME?!
I'M NOT HURT
Oh HONESTLY!
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO UNREASONABLE?!
PIT
EXIT
WELL, WHO THE HELL CARES ABOUT YOU THEN!!
HOW MANY MORE BIKES DO YOU PLAN TO DESTROY?!
KILLER

GAME 4
SCORE
GOAL
KC
BA
AAAGH! WE'RE GONNA EAT IT AGAIN TODAY
SUZUKI
BMW
YAMAHA
JEEZUS, LOOK AT THE SCORE
SHUT UP!!
LOOK, I TOLD YOU AL-READY--
--I'M OKAY!!
EXIT
AHEM! NOT AGAIN
SO GO BACK TO THE PIT AND WORK ON IT, THEN!
?!
YOU'RE MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE BIKE, RIGHT?

YOU'RE "KILLER COMMANDO" NUMBER EIGHT, YES?
KEN SENO, BORN IN 10, NINETEEN YEARS OLD.
YEAH, SO? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
SKREEEE
LENOR
12

A ONE-TON BIKE?!
YES, WITH A TURBO-CHARGED 3500cc ENGINE
IT HAS CERAMIC PISTONS, VALVES AND CONNECTING RODS. IT REDLINES AT 20,000 RPM AND HAS AN OUTPUT OF 248 HORSEPOWER
QUITE AN IMPROVEMENT ON THOSE TOYS YOU KIDS RIDE ON.
Huh. WAIT A MINUTE.
WHAT THE HELL WOULD YOU USE A MONSTER LIKE THAT FOR?
SO YOU INTERESTED?
QUESTIONS LATER!
....
JUST TELL ME ONE THING, KEN
ARE YOU INTERESTED--OR NOT?
TIME OUT!
VRMMM
TIME OUT!

THAT GODDAMN SENO!!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO PLAY WITHOUT A FULLBACK?!
Hmph
AARGH, AT THIS RATE WE'LL ALWAYS BE A MINOR LEAGUE
Shrt!
MAGGIE! WHERE'S KEN?
EXIT
Er.
A COUPLE OF MEN CAME TO SEE HIM...
HE WENT OUTSIDE WITH THEM
...?!
MEN...?
Huh!
SORRY, I'M NOT.


YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT ME.
I'M JUST A LOUSY FULLBACK ON A SECOND-RATE BATTLEBIKE TEAM...
I'M AFRAID, MR. SENO...
THAT WE KNOW YOU FAR BETTER THAN YOU KNOW YOURSELF.
WE'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR SOME TIME NOW.
GATE 1
THIRD-GENERATION COLONIST, HALF EUROPEAN, HALF ASIAN.
YOUR FATHER, ROGER, RUNS A FARM IN NEW ALBERTA. YOUR MOTHER, YOSHIKO, IS DEAD.
TWO MONTHS AGO YOU WERE EXPELLED FROM IO HIGH SCHOOL FOR BAD CONDUCT--JUST TWO WEEKS SHORT OF GRADUATION.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS, ANYWAY?
COPS OR SOMETHING?

CLOSE, BUT NOT QUITE.
MEANING WHAT ?
THAT'S ENOUGH QUESTIONS LET'S JUST LEAVE IT AT "OR SOMETHING."
WE DON'T WISH TO SEEM UNNECESSARILY MYSTERIOUS, BUT WE'D RATHER NOT INTRODUCE OURSELVES YET.
IT WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE.. THE DISCUSSION. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WHAT WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT.
CALL THIS NUMBER
KEN!!
PIT

WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!
WHAT'S THAT YOU'VE GOT THERE ?!
AUTHOR PERSONA ONLY PA THIS PO
SMAK
HEY, YOU!!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TEAM YOU'RE SCOUTING FOR, BUT YOU SLEAZEBAG HEADNUNTERS BETTER GET OUTTA MY SIGHT!
I SEE YOU SNIFFIN' AROUND MY BEST FULLBACK AGAIN AND I'LL TEAR YOUR NUTS OFF! GET THE PICTURE?!
WELL
IT WOULD SEEM WE'VE OFFENDED HER MAJESTY. Hmm?
GOOD LUCK IN THE RACE, QUEEN MIRANDA. YOU CERTAINLY NEED IT..
OH, YEAH?! WELL, SHOVE YOUR GOOD LUCK, YOU YOU..
#$%#!!
AND DON'T COME BACK!

TO BE CONTINUED

DARK HORSE COMICS

The Crusades WARS

2

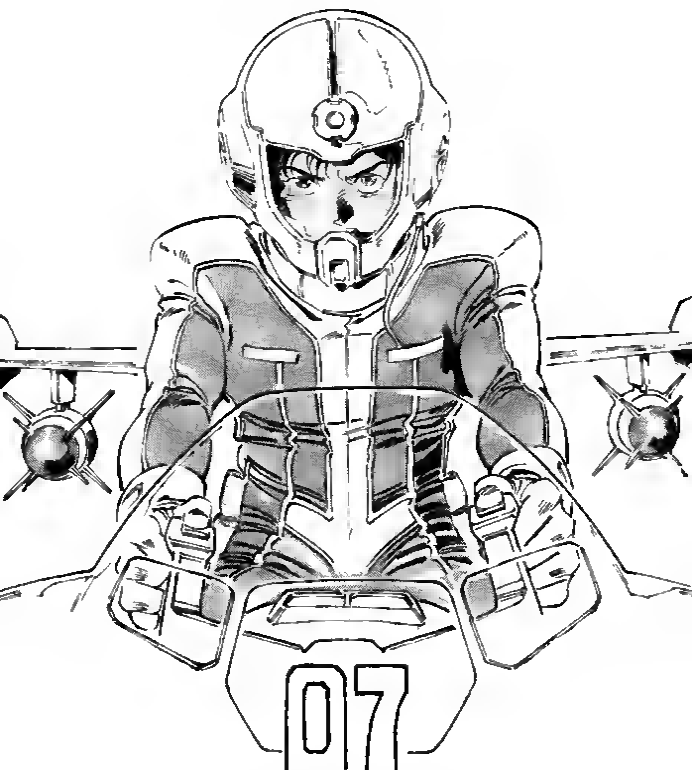
$2.25 U.S.,
$2.75 Canada

DARK HORSE
TRADING CARDS
INSIDE!

By Yoshikazu Yasuhiko

STUDIO PROTEUS

The Venus WARS



07

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I MEAN, SHE'S KINDA CRAZY
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT SHE MIGHT DO IF YOU REALLY PISS HER OFF
WILL YOU SHUT UP?!
STOP BITCHING AT ME AND PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR DRIVING!
IF YOU CRASH, I'M JUST GONNA LEAVE YOU THERE!
HMPH!
SOMETIMES YOU'RE SUCH A SNOT!
B-07
EXIT
BLOCK 07
07

HEY
..WHY'D YOU RENT AN APARTMENT IN A FILTHY PLACE LIKE BLOCK SEVEN, ANYWAY?
I *LIKE* IT HERE, OKAY?! WHAT'S IT TO YOU?!
AFTER MY DAD HELPED YOU FIND A BETTER PLACE, TOO...
MY, AREN'T WE *CRABBY* TODAY! PLAYING THE MOODY HERO ...?
I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHY YOU'RE ACTING THIS WAY, Y'KNOW..
THOSE WEIRD OLD GUYS WHO CAME TO SEE YOU, RIGHT?!

I JUST WONDER IF THEY--
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT !!
YOU KNOW IT'S JUST AN INVITATION FOR TROUBLE, DON'T YOU?
No-4
GAMEL
A-S
We Need Young Men! For The FUTURE of VENU

LIKE RIDING A BATTLE-BIKE, EH?
COME ON! THAT'S NOTHING!
THAT'S JUST KIDS HAVING A BLAST!
WELCOME!
A "BLAST," huh? THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE?
DO YOU THINK WAR IS A JOKE?

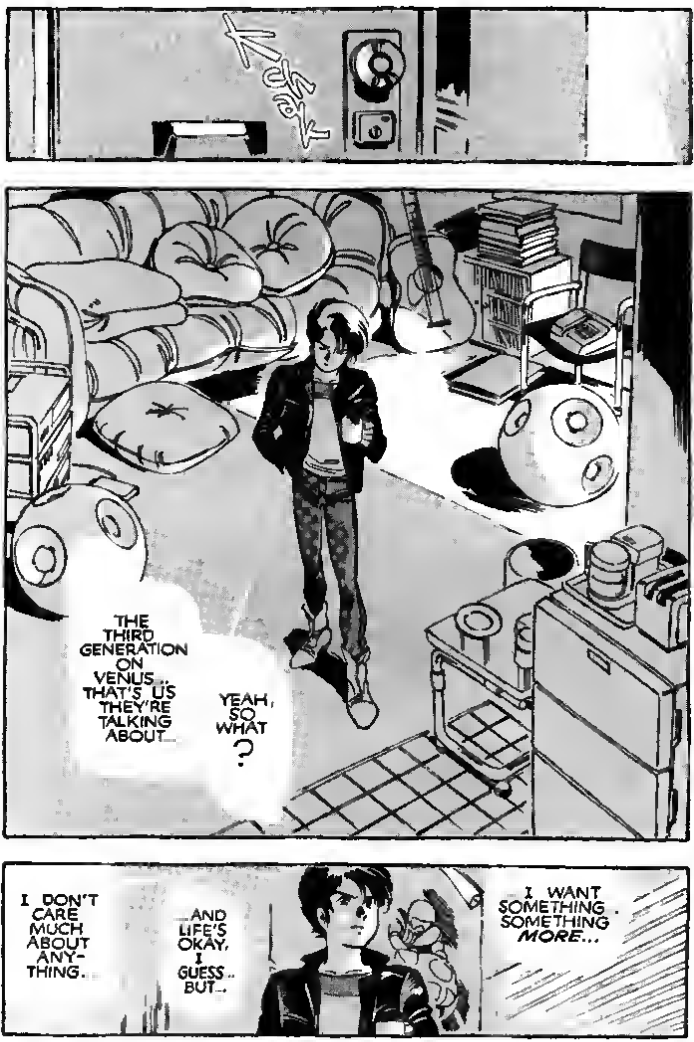
HELL, I DUNNO . .
WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DEVELOP VENUS
JOIN NOW!
WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS...
NO!!
DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT!!
I HATE IT WHEN YOU TALK THAT WAY!
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU BELIEVE ALL THAT--
--THAT GARBAGE ABOUT HOW US THIRD-GENERATION VENUSIAN KIDS HAVE NO GOALS!
THAT'S JUST A BUNCH OF STUPID OLD PEOPLE TALKING!
I'M SERIOUS!
WON'T YOU EVER GROW UP, KEN?!

BUT IT'S LIKE YOU WANT TO PROVE THEM RIGHT!
YOU WANT TO JOIN THE ARMY JUST TO GET KILLED? FINE! SEE IF I CARE!!
OUT OF MY WAY ...
EVERY-ONE'S STARING AT US
C'MON LET'S GO IN, OKAY?
S-SORRY! ..
OOOHH, KEN
IT'S IT'S DISGUSTING!

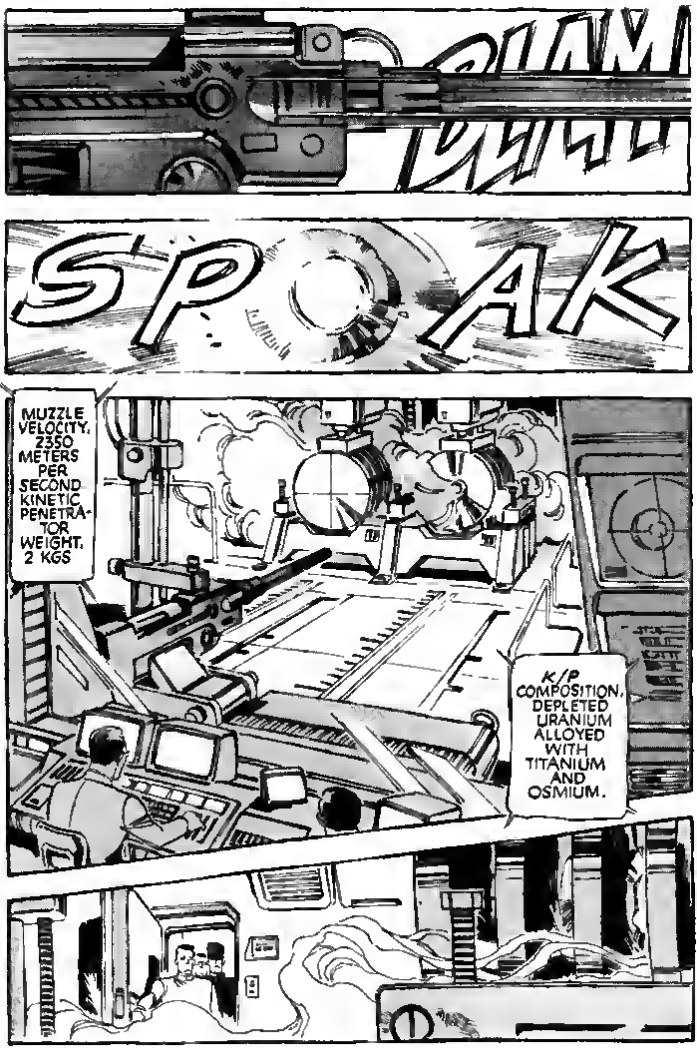
HONESTLY!
DON'T YOU EVER CLEAN THIS PLACE?
IT'S LIKE A--
FOR RENT
OH!
HOW BEAUTIFUL!
KEN! LOOK AT THIS!
I'VE NEVER SEEN THE SUN LOOK SO LOVELY.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD SUCH A NICE VIEW
MAYBE THIS PLACE ISN'T SO BAD, AFTER ALL.

HEY, MAGGIE ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK A SUNSET ON TERRA IS LIKE..?
MM?
ON EARTH THE SUN GOES ALL THAT WAY AROUND EVERY 24 HOURS...
NO LONG MONTHS OF DARKNESS, NO MONTHS OF LIGHT AND HEAT...
HEY
YOU EVER FEEL LIKE CHECKING IT OUT SOMETIME? TERRA, I MEAN?
Huh.
I WONDER ...
WELL ...
GEE ...
IT CAN'T BE ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM HERE...
DON'T YOU THINK?

YOU LEAVING ALREADY? WELL, I'M NOT GONNA DRIVE YOU HOME, Y'KNOW.
THAT'S OKAY!
I DON'T LIVE ALONE, LIKE A CERTAIN SOMEONE I COULD MENTION!
SEE YOU LATER!
BYE!
OH, YEAH...
DON'T DO ANYTHING CRAZY, HONEY... AND IF YOU'RE REAL LUCKY..
...MAYBE I'LL COME AND TAKE CARE OF YOU AGAIN NEXT WEEK.
DON'T BE A SMART-ASS!
HA HA
THANKS FOR THE SAND-WICH
AND THE HOUSE-CLEANING! YOU BETTER THANK ME FOR THAT TOO!


KUSH
THE THIRD GENERATION ON VENUS... THAT'S US THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT...
YEAH, SO WHAT?
I DON'T CARE MUCH ABOUT ANY-THING...
...AND LIFE'S OKAY, I GUESS... BUT...
I WANT SOMETHING... SOMETHING MORE...

SOME-
THING
MORE
KORAY VALLEY--THE APHRODIA MILITARY WEAPONS LABORA-TORY.

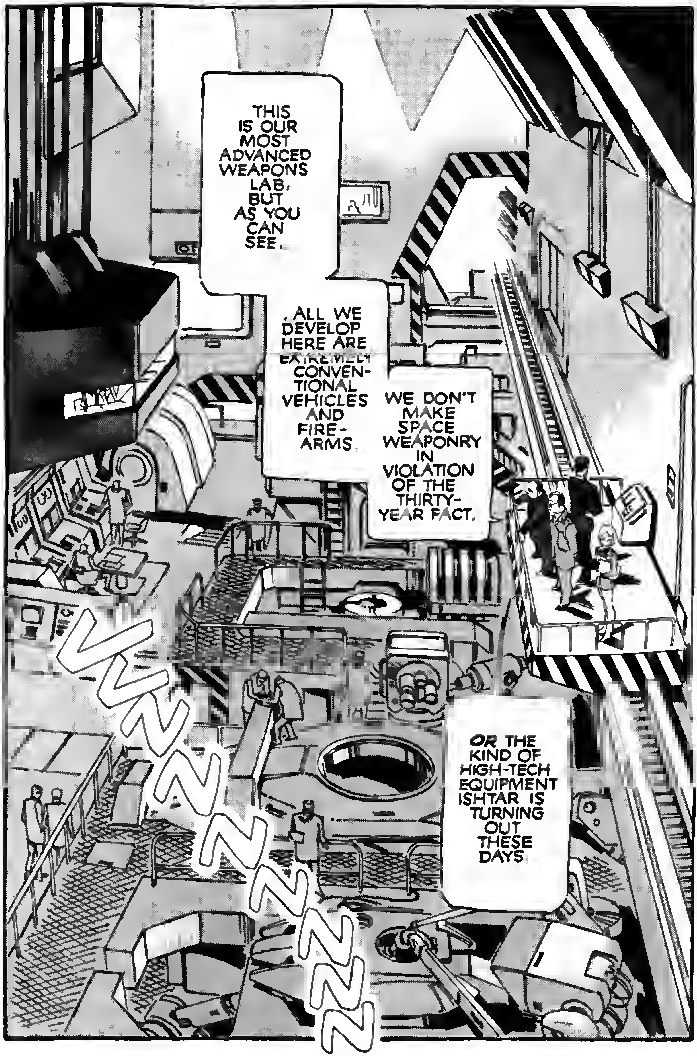

SP AK
MUZZLE VELOCITY, 2350 METERS PER SECOND KINETIC PENETRATOR WEIGHT, 2 KGS
K/P COMPOSITION, DEPLETED URANIUM ALLOYED WITH TITANIUM AND OSMIUM.

IT PIERCED SIX FIVE-CENTIMETER CHROME-MOLYBDENUM STEEL PLATES
WE THINK THIS IS ABOUT THE LIMIT-- FOR A 40mm CANNON SHELL, ANYWAY...
THE FRONT OF THE "OCTOPUS" WOULD BE A PROBLEM, eh...
MORE LIKE IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S GOT COMPOSITE ARMOR OF AN ESTIMATED ONE METER THICKNESS
WE'D HAVE TO DEVELOP A NEW, MORE POWERFUL, HEAVY-CALIBER ARMOR-PIERCING SHELL.
WE WERE TOLD THAT THE MOBILITY OF THE PLATFORM WOULD COMPENSATE FOR ANY LIMITATIONS OF THE WEAPON, MAJOR SIMS.
WE'LL DO OUR PART OF THE JOB, PROFESSOR!
MAJOR SIMS!
MESSAGE FROM COLONEL GRISSOM--
"THE NEW MILITARY INSPECTOR FROM TERRA HAS ARRIVED PLEASE GO TO THE MAIN LOBBY IMMEDIATELY."

WELL, SIMS -- WHAT DO YOU THINK? WILL IT WORK?
THE 40mm CANNON, I MEAN...
WE HAVE TO MAKE IT WORK, COLONEL.
AFTER ALL...
..WE CAN'T POSSIBLY MOUNT A 150mm SMOOTH-BORE ON A MOTOR-BIKE.
Hmph.
IN ANY CASE..
WHAT REALLY ANNOYS ME IS THAT WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THIS IF THE TERRAN INSPECTORS WOULD THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE ISHTAR!
WELCOME. I'M COLONEL GRISSOM, DIRECTOR OF THE LAB
INSPECTOR URAGE, TERRA SPACE FORCE.
THIS IS MY ASSISTANT, LIEUTENANT HELEN MACLUTH.

NO ...
NO, I JUST THOUGHT I'D MET THE LIEUTENANT BEFORE.
PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGINATION.
NO, IT'S NOT.
....
SOMETHING WRONG, MAJOR ...?
WE HAVE MET, MAJOR.
IN IO, AT THE BATTLE-BIKE STADIUM.
....
Oh, REALLY? THAT'S AN ODD PLACE TO MEET.
IT WAS THE DAY YOU LET ME HAVE OFF AFTER WE ARRIVED, SIR ... MY APOLOGIES
IT WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO SEE
I'D HEARD THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ON VENUS, ABOUT MY OWN AGE, ARE CRAZY ABOUT THE GAME
WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE IT ON TERRA.
BUT IT SEEMS TEENAGERS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES CRAZY ABOUT IT, hmm ?

Ha Ha Ha... SCORE ONE FOR YOUTH!
STILL, WHAT'S WRONG WITH GOING TO A BATTLEBIKE GAME?
SHOWS YOU'VE STILL GOT SOME LIFE IN YOU, SIMS!
BY THE WAY...
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR INSPECTION OF ISHTAR?
AS YOU KNOW OUR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS FILED A FORMAL COMPLAINT WITH TERRA REGARDING ISHTAR'S AGGRESSION.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND ANY TREATY VIOLATIONS IN APHRODIA
NOT EVEN HERE.


THIS IS OUR MOST ADVANCED WEAPONS LAB, BUT AS YOU CAN SEE...
...ALL WE DEVELOP HERE ARE EXTREMELY CONVENTIONAL VEHICLES AND FIREARMS.
WE DON'T MAKE SPACE WEAPONRY IN VIOLATION OF THE THIRTY-YEAR PACT.
VVZZZZZZZZZZZZ
OR THE KIND OF HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT ISHTAR IS TURNING OUT THESE DAYS.

NATURALLY, I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE YOU, COLONEL.
BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, ISHTAR HAS FILED THE SAME SORT OF COMPLAINT AGAINST YOU.
THEY CLAIM THAT APHRODIA HAS INVADED THE SCORPION'S TAIL REGION
!
INSPECTOR... I'M ONLY THE CHIEF ENGINEER, SO IT'S NOT REALLY MY PLACE TO SAY THIS... BUT--
--THE TERRAN AUTHORITIES SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THE DEFINITION OF "INVASION"!!
IT'S SIMPLY A QUESTION OF HOW ONE VIEWS THE JURISDICTION OF THE SCORPION'S TAIL AND BETA REGIONS!
THE SCORPION'S TAIL IS NOT NOW, AND HAS NEVER BEEN, A TERRITORY OF ISHTAR!

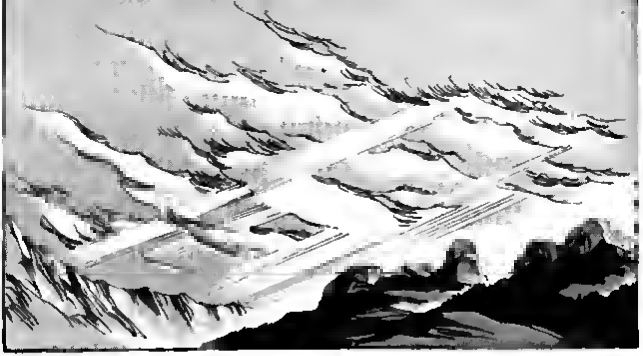
NOR IS IT APHRODIA'S. AS YOU KNOW, BOTH REGIONS ARE JOINT MANDATE TERRITORIES UNDER TERRAN RULE.
AND MAY I *FURTHER* REMIND YOU, COLONEL GRISSOM...
ISHTAR AND APHRODIA ARE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCES OF TERRA, AND NOTHING MORE.
FOR YOU TO PREPARE FOR WAR WITH EACH OTHER IS... WELL,...
I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, INSPECTOR...
KYK
BUT THEORY RARELY MATCHES REALITY
WE HAVE NO WISH TO CLAIM POSSESSION OF THE ENTIRE CONTINENT OF APHRODIA, WHICH IS, AFTER ALL, *HUGE*.
THE AUTONOMOUS STATE OF APHRODIA WOULD THEN BE FOUR TIMES THE SIZE OF ISHTAR.

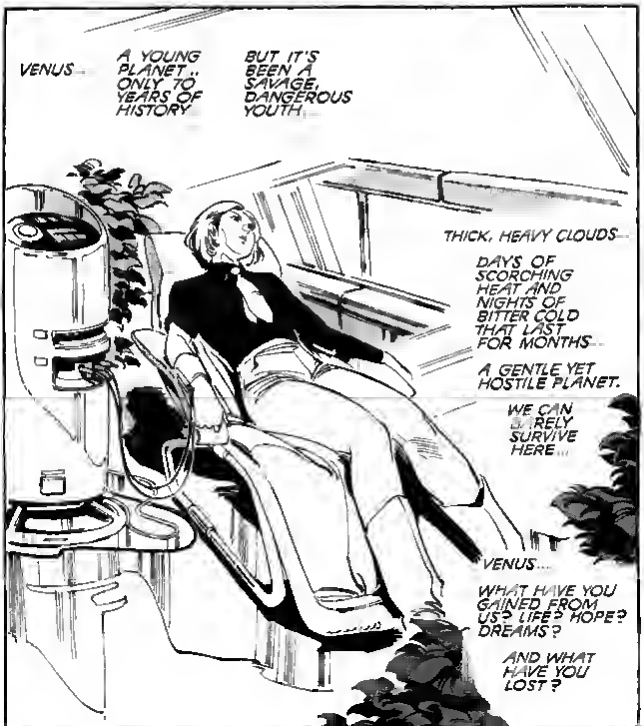
THE TWO REGIONS UNDER DISPUTE COMPRISE NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE CONTINENT, EVERYTHING EAST OF LAKE IZANAMI AND 160 DEGREES EAST LONGITUDE.
BUT IT'S NO SECRET, COLONEL URABE, THAT ISHTAR HAS COVETED THIS VAST AREA FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW--
WHY? BECAUSE THEY HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THIS UNTAPPED EXPANSE HOLDS VALUABLE RESOURCES-- MINERALS, ORES, AND URANIUM
160 E
WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONTENT TO RECOG-NIZE THAT AS A JOINT MANDATE TERRI-TORY!
--STARTING WITH THE SCORPION'S TAIL!
THROUGHOUT HISTORY, IT HAS NEVER BEEN EASY TO SAY WHO MADE THE FIRST MOVE IN CASES LIKE THIS
I AM NOT SPEAKING IN GENERALITIES, GENERAL!!
YOU WANT PROOF? FINE-- I'LL BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU SOME.
KLIK
KLIK
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT, GRISSOM.
THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT WILL SOON BE DISPATCHING AN INVESTI-GATIVE TEAM HERE
NEVER MIND HEADQUARTERS INTELLIGENCE-- WE HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH EVIDENCE RIGHT HERE!

OUR POSITION IS THIS SINCE THESE REGIONS WERE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED FOR DIRECT JURISDICTION ANYWAY..
..WE MAY SIMPLY PLACE THEM UNDER DIRECT TERRAN MILITARY CONTROL.
.....
.....
IS SOME-THING WRONG, LIEUTEN-ANT?
W-WHAT ?! OH, er, IT'S NOTHING ...
MORE THAN THAT, I THINK-- IT'S PROBABLY ALTITUDE SICKNESS
CALL THE CLINIC, MAJOR
THIS IS CONFER-ENCE ROOM TWO! SEND A NURSE UP IMMEDI-ATELY!
N-NO ..
REALLY, I'M ALL RIGHT..

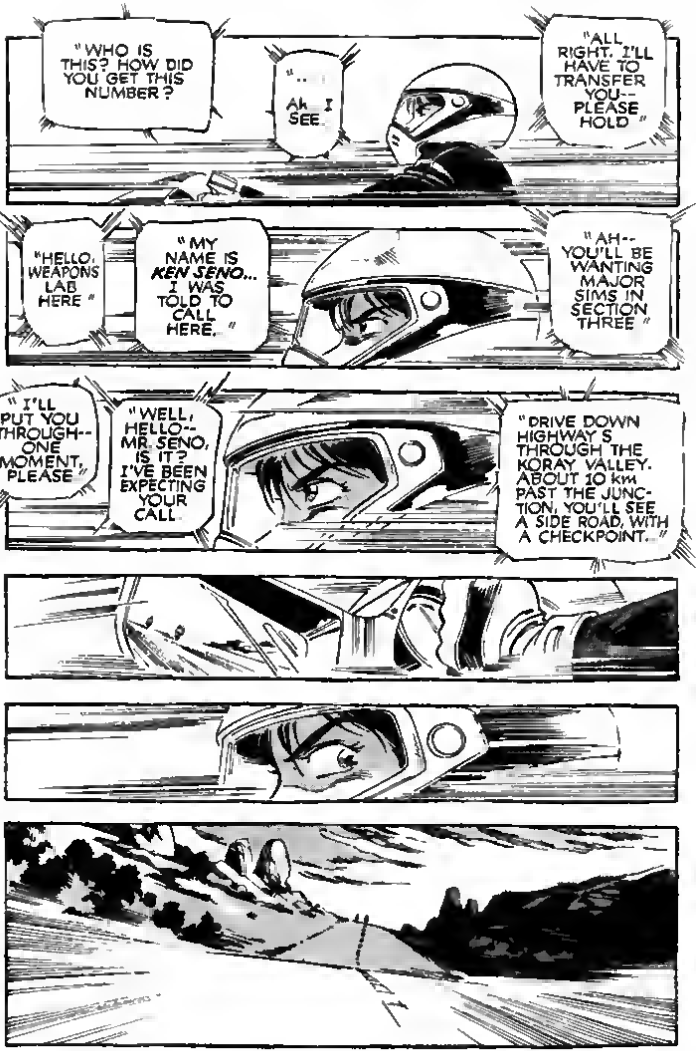
THIS IS HER FIRST TIME ON VENUS.
CONFERENCE 12
APPARENTLY SHE'S HAVING TROUBLE ACCLIMATIZING TO THE AIR PRESSURE.
SEE THAT SHE RESTS, WILL YOU?
Ah, THE FOLLIES OF YOUTH. SHE SKIPS HER ASSIGNED REST DAY TO GO SIGHT-SEEING--
--AND GETS HIT WITH ALTITUDE SICKNESS AS A REWARD.
SO, ARE SHE AND I NOW EVEN, INSPECTOR?
Heh heh... IF YOU SAY SO.

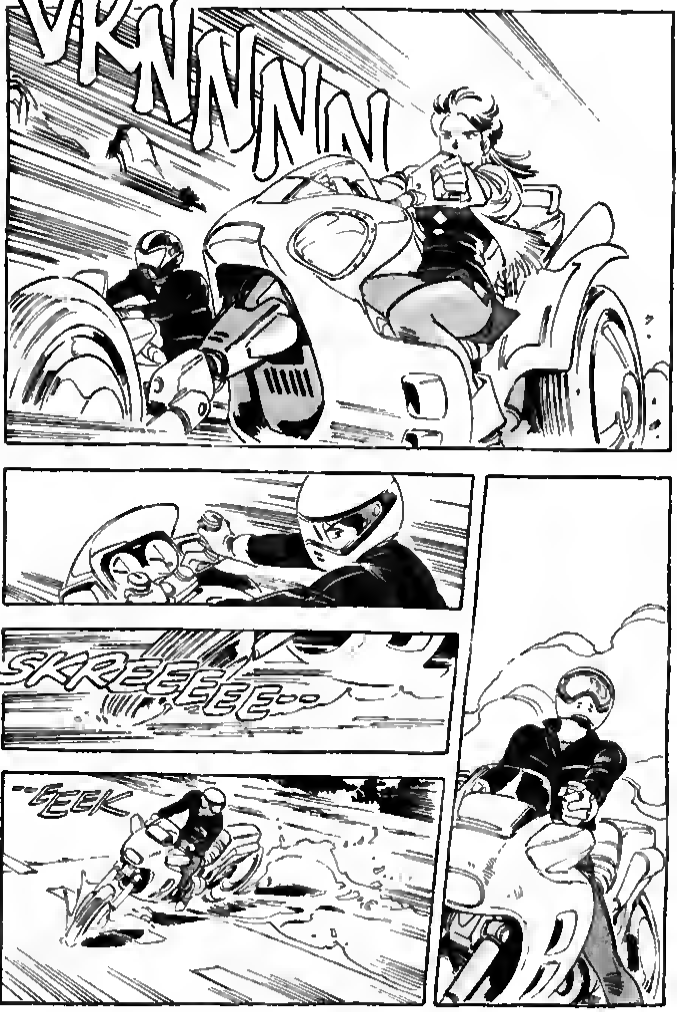
THERE!
YOU'LL BE JUST FINE, DEAR
TH-THANK YOU...
IT WAS SO SUDDEN... ONE MINUTE I WAS FINE, THEN...
YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ALTITUDE SICKNESS CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS
THIS IS A HYPERBARIC OXYGEN CHAMBER, AT EARTH-NORMAL PRESSURE
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.
BUT YOU MUSTN'T EXERT YOURSELF FOR A WHILE--- WE'RE AT A MUCH HIGHER ALTITUDE HERE THAN IO CITY.
VRRRRRR
SO IT'S EVEN HARDER FOR PEOPLE FROM TERRA TO GET ACCLIMATIZED.
WAIT!
PLEASE LEAVE THE SHADES OPEN!
I'D LIKE TO LOOK AT VENUS FOR AWHILE
IS THAT OKAY ...?




VENUS...
A YOUNG PLANET... ONLY 70 YEARS OF HISTORY...
BUT IT'S BEEN A SAVAGE, DANGEROUS YOUTH...
THICK, HEAVY CLOUDS...
DAYS OF SCORCHING HEAT AND NIGHTS OF BITTER COLD THAT LAST FOR MONTHS...
A GENTLE YET HOSTILE PLANET.
WE CAN SURELY SURVIVE HERE...
VENUS...
WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED FROM US? LIFE? HOPE? DREAMS?
AND WHAT HAVE YOU LOST?

VENUS...
ARE YOU REALLY A PLANET OF BEGINNINGS?
OR...
VRRR
MM
VRRM
MM
VRMMMMMMM


"WHO IS THIS? HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?
"... Ah... I SEE.
"ALL RIGHT. I'LL HAVE TO TRANSFER YOU-- PLEASE HOLD."
"HELLO, WEAPONS LAB. HERE."
"MY NAME IS KEN SENO... I WAS TOLD TO CALL HERE."
"AH-- YOU'LL BE WANTING MAJOR SIMS IN SECTION THREE."
"I'LL PUT YOU THROUGH-- ONE MOMENT, PLEASE."
"WELL, HELLO-- MR. SENO, IS IT? I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOUR CALL."
"DRIVE DOWN HIGHWAY 5 THROUGH THE KORAY VALLEY. ABOUT 10 km PAST THE JUNCTION, YOU'LL SEE A SIDE ROAD, WITH A CHECKPOINT."


VRNNNN
SKREEEEE--
--EEEK

MIRANDA!
ROB!
YOU FOLLOWED ME?!

THAT WAS *STUPID!* I DON'T NEED YOU FOLLOWING ME AROUND!
THAT'S AN ARMY CHECK-POINT UP AHEAD, KEN!
WHERE THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
NONE OF YOUR GOD-DAMN BUSI-NESS!
NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
THEY'LL BUST YOU AT THE CHECK-POINT!
BUT IT'S YOUR ASS!
VRUMMM
VNNNNNNNN

TO BE CONTINUED...

COMING NEXT MONTH IN
THE VENUS WARS
BRM
M
BRM
M

DARK HORSE TRADING CARDS INSIDE!™

DARK HORSE COMICS

Crest of the WARS

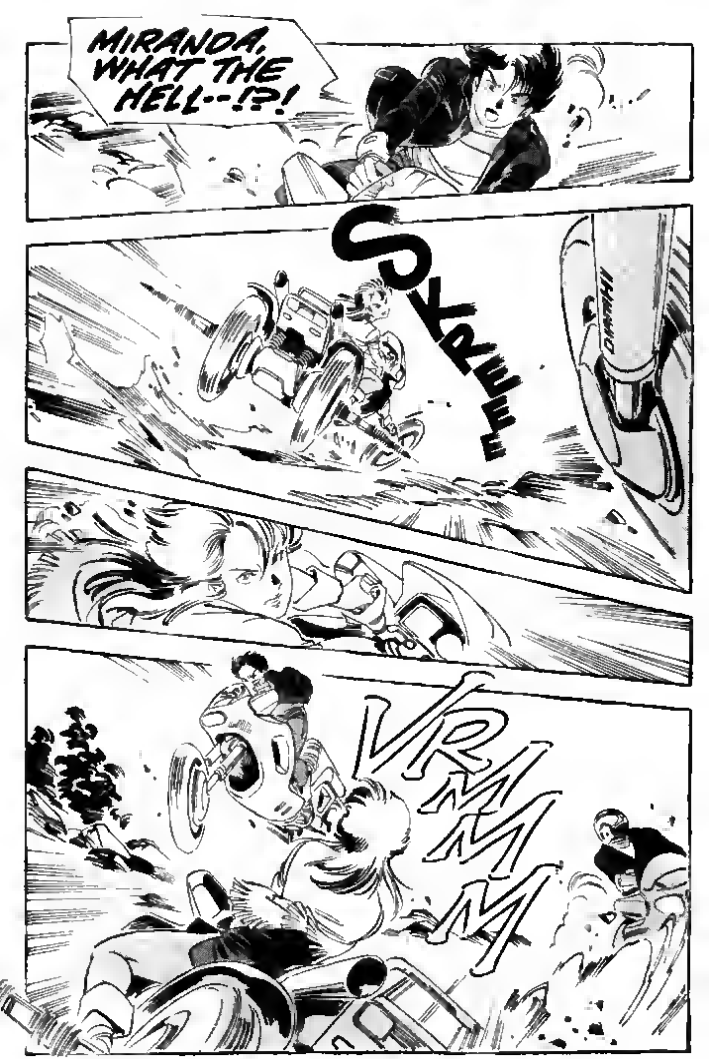
3

YOSHIKAZU YASUHIKO

STUDIO PROTEUS

The Clone WARS

VRMMM


MIRANDA, WHAT THE HELL--!?!
SKIDMARKS
VRMMM

SKREEE
SHHHH!
GRMMM

YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE, KEN!!
RUN OFF AND JOIN THE ARMY, WILL YOU?!
HEY, L- LIGHTEN UP.
I'LL TEAR YOUR HEART OUT--
SPAK
--YOU BASTARD !!

DON'T TRY TO RUN AWAY, YOU LITTLE WEASEL!!
...
whew ...
BRM M
BRMM
SCARY LADY
VRM
VRM

GZZT
STOP!!
DAMN IT, MIRANDA!
SPANG
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR CRAP!
I DIDN'T GET TO BE TEAM QUEEN FOR NOTHING!!
MIRANDA!!

I WON'T STAND FOR BEING DUMPED--
--BY A PUNK LIKE YOU!!
VRRM
WHOP

VRMMMMMMMM
VRMM
VRRRMMMM

CRASH
BRAKK!!
huhh
gasp
huhh
hahh
YOU TWO, CUT IT OUT
LEAVE ME ALONE!! YOU'RE NUTS!!
THAT-- THAT'S ENOUGH, MIRANDA!!
I'M YOUR QUEEN, DAMMIT!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?!
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, BRAT!

WHB
Oops--
SKRASSHANG
OOF
umph
HNRGGG
GRRR...
HNNGGG
VRMM
VRMM
VRMM
BRRMM
VRMMM

BRMM
BRMM

WELL.
ARE YOU QUITE FINISHED?
IS THIS ONE OF THEM...?
THAT "ONE-TON BIKE" THAT SIMS WAS TALKING ABOUT.
!!
I DO SO HATE TO INTERRUPT YOUR LITTLE GAME OF TAG...
IT COULDN'T BE YOU, COULD IT?!
BUT I HEARD SOME CIVILIAN RIDER WANNABES WERE COMING TODAY

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A BIT OF SPIRIT..
..BUT I DOUBT YOU COULD HANDLE ONE OF THESE!
BRMM
BRMMMM
BRRM

COME ON!
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!
!!
KEN, WAIT!!
VRMMM
VRMM

I'M COMING, TOO !!
VVRRMMMM
WAIT FOR ME !!
HE'H'H--

BRMMMMMM
NO! WAIT! STOP!!
THAT'S AN ARMY BASE, YOU GUYS!! TURN BACK!!

BRMM
I'M OFF-ROAD ...
DAMN IT!
ENGINE'S RED-LINED!
SCREW IT! THIS GUY'S IN FOR A SURPRISE!
DAMN SHOCKS AREN'T DIALED FOR IT!
BRM
MM

BASTARD DRIVES LIKE A GOD-DAMN RACER--
--ON THAT FRIGGIN' MONSTER!
SHIT!
MY EYES!
SPARK
VRMM
KEN! GIVE UP! SLOW DOWN!!!
KEN!!!!
BRMM

JEE-ZUZ!
HE JUMPED A ONE-TON BIKE!
KRASH!
SKRASSHH

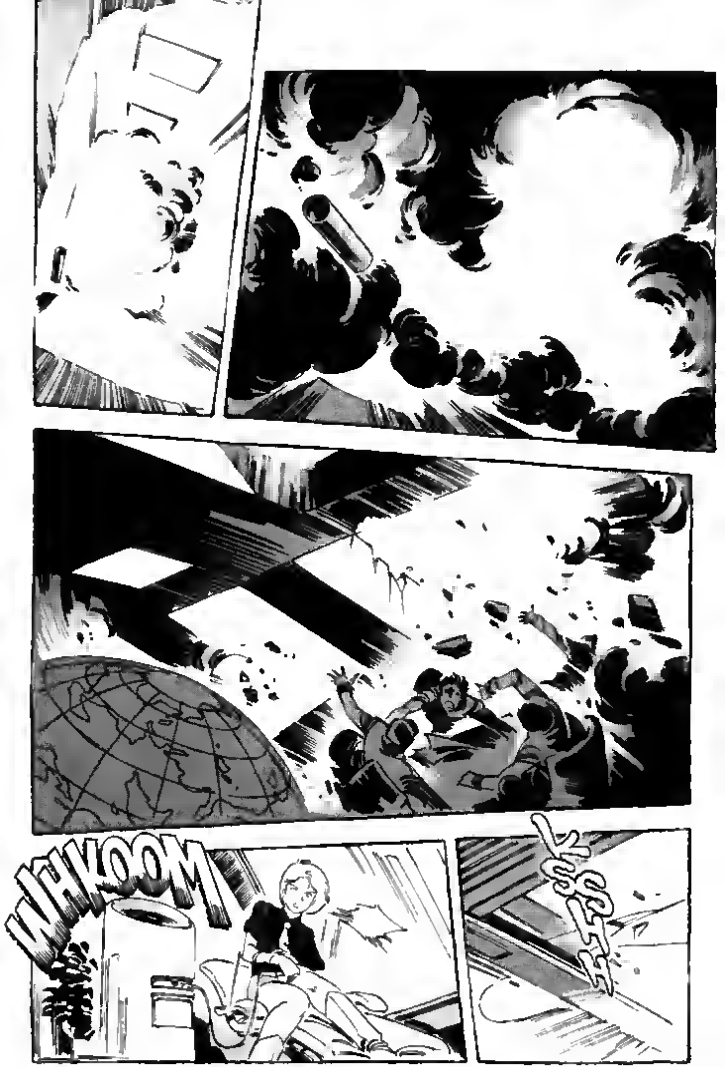
beep
beep
beep
beep
SHIT SHIT SHIT !!
THAT SON OF A BITCH !!
WEEOOUUUWEEOOUU
WEEOOUUUWEEOOUUUWEEOOUU

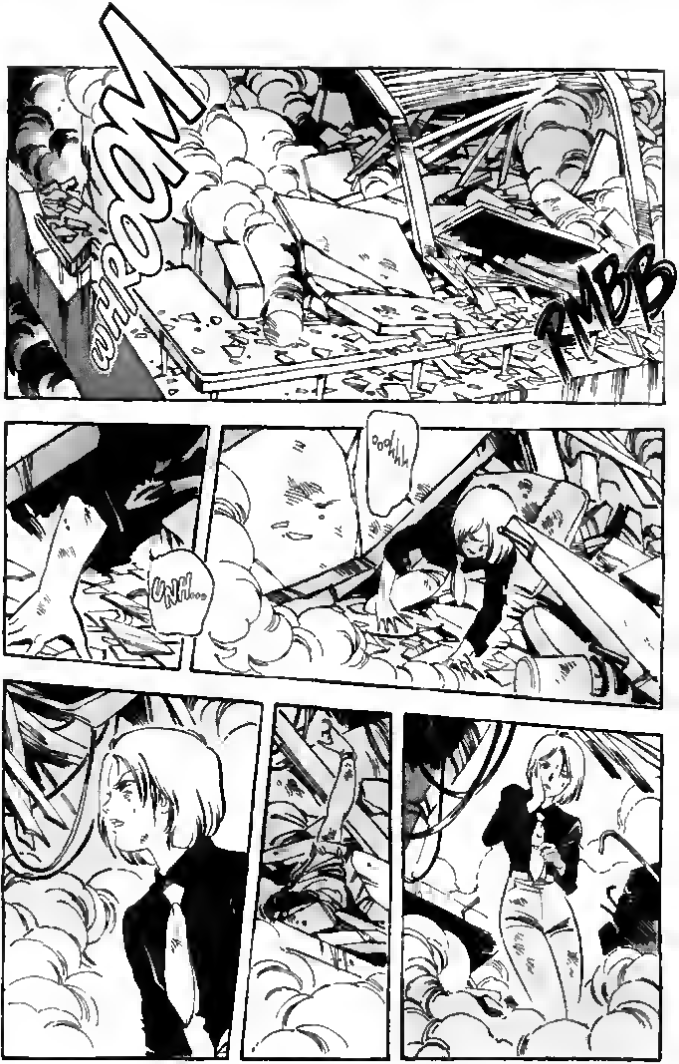
HELLO, SECURITY? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
TRES-PASSERS?!
I WAS EXPECT-ING THIS
I'LL CHECK IT OUT
DON'T WORRY, INSPEC-TOR THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME
OUR SECURITY HERE IS EVEN TIGHTER THAN HEAD-QUARTERS'
REALLY

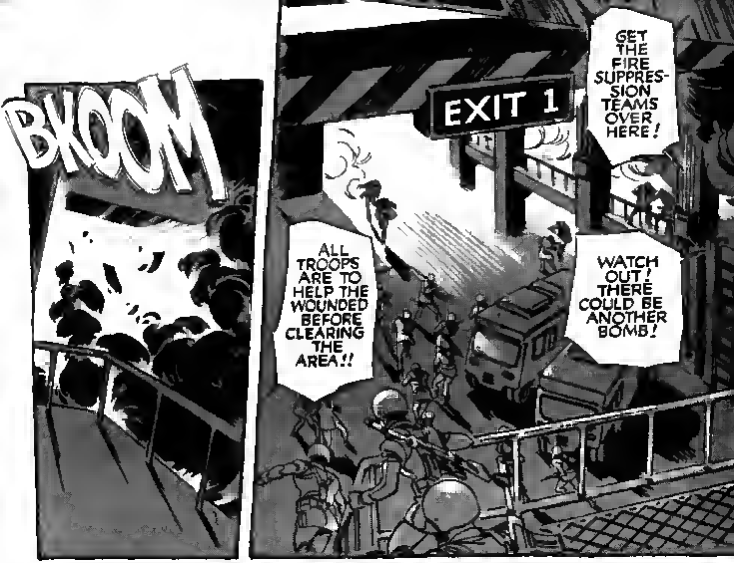
?!
IF THERE'S A SINGLE SCRATCH, I WANT IT SENT STRAIGHT TO ENGI-NEERING!
CHECK THE FAIRING ARMOR, TOO!
THE STEERING CONTROL LINKAGE IS STIFF AND THE CARBURETOR NEEDS TO BE REJETTED!

Ohnhnn!
KEEP THOSE HANDS UP, YOU PUNKS! THAT MEANS YOU!!
CHRIST, I'VE HAD A BELLYFUL OF YOU GODDAMN HOOLIGANS TRESPASSING AROUND HERE!!
JEEZ, YA DON'T HAFTA HIT ME!! I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'!!
NO WEAPONS FOUND ON THEIR BIKES, SIR!
GET YOUR MEATHOOKS OFFA ME, YOU @!&%$!!
WELL, WELL, SO YOU SHOWED UP AFTER ALL.
GUESS THAT'S ALL FOR NOW, INSPECTOR URABE.

YOU CAN RESUME YOUR INSPECTION OF THE FACILITIES TOMORROW


WHOOM
SSSSS


KRAM
RMBB
Ohhh...
Mhhh


BKOOM
EXIT 1
GET THE FIRE SUPPRESSION TEAMS OVER HERE!
WATCH OUT! THERE COULD BE ANOTHER BOMB!
ALL TROOPS ARE TO HELP THE WOUNDED BEFORE CLEARING THE AREA!!

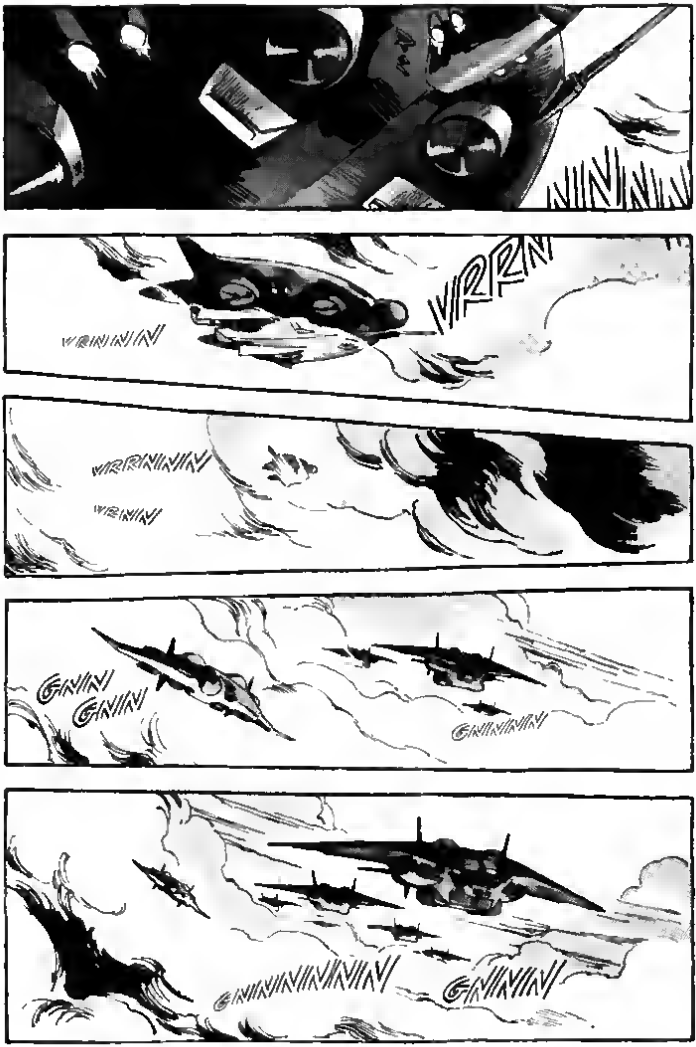
ROB !!
YOU AND MIRANDA RUN FOR IT!!
KEN !!

NO SMOKING
KEN! DON'T !!

....
....
OH IT'S YOU ...
YOU'RE N-NUMBER EIGHT ON THE RED TEAM..
I KNOW YOU ...
THE ACETONE REAGENT STORES COULD BLOW !!
PUT OUT THE FIRES NEAR THE TEST LAB *FIRST* !!
WE CAN'T GET ANY-WHERE NEAR IT!!
SQUAD THREE! COVER POWER PLANT BETA !!
WHAT ABOUT THE THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM?! *COLONEL GRISSOM* AND *INSPECTOR URABE* WERE UP THERE--
FOR-GET IT !

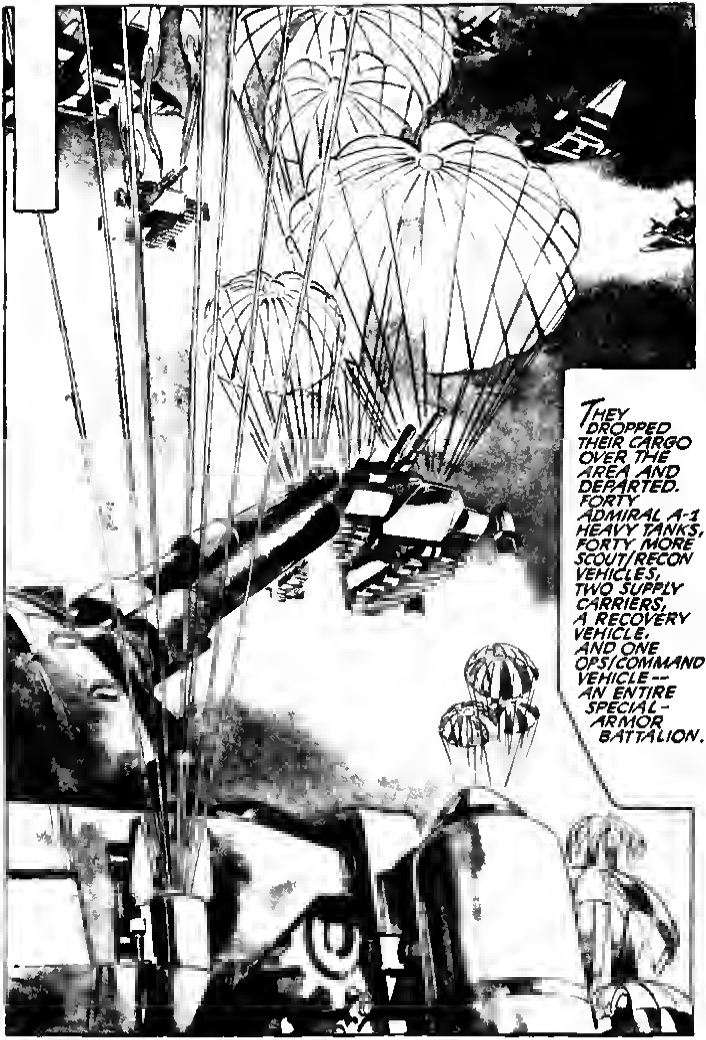
HOW...
HOW COME YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
I... I SAW YOU AT THE STADIUM.
YOU... YOU LOOKED REALLY CUTE...
LOOK! WE'RE OUT AL-READY!
HEY, YOU OKAY BACK THERE...?
HEY, DON'T!
DON'T PASS OUT ON ME!! C'MON, GIRL!
VRRRNN VRRRNN
VRRRNN
VRRRNN
VRRRNN

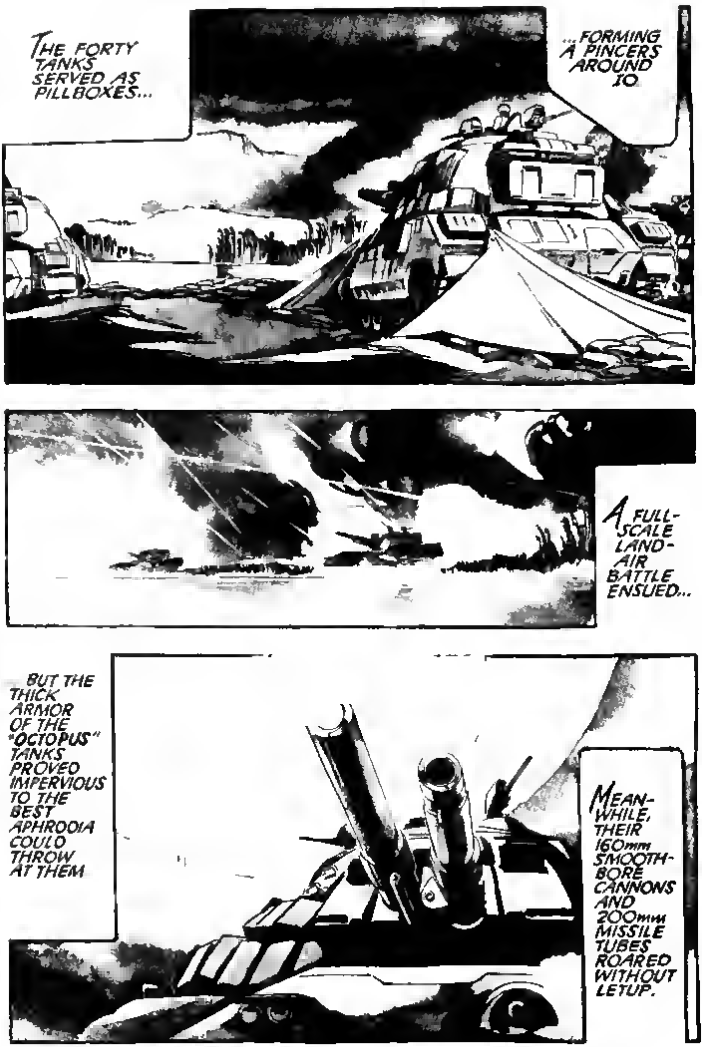
VRRNIN VRRNIN VRRNIN


NNNNN
VRRN
VRRNNNN
VRRNNNN
VRNNN
GNNN GNNN
GNNNNNN
GNNNNNNNNNN
GNNNNN

THE C-72A TRANSPORT PLANE OF THE ISHTAR AIR FORCE, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "TURTLE," HAS A GROSS WEIGHT OF 720 TONS WITH A 400-TON PAYLOAD.
ON JUNE 6, BY THE VENUSIAN CALENDAR, A CONVOY OF THESE AIRCRAFT STAGED A SURPRISE RAID ON IO CITY.
NNNN
GNIN

By the time the Aphrodian air defense force had scrambled to intercept them...
...the fleet had already made a wide circle over Io--
...and passed near the lakes that provided the capital with its water supply
Io City
Hungry Valley


THEY DROPPED THEIR CARGO OVER THE AREA AND DEPARTED. FORTY ADMIRAL A-1 HEAVY TANKS, FORTY MORE SCOUT/RECON VEHICLES, TWO SUPPLY CARRIERS, A RECOVERY VEHICLE, AND ONE OPS/COMMAND VEHICLE -- AN ENTIRE SPECIAL-ARMOR BATTALION.


THE FORTY TANKS SERVED AS PILLBOXES...
...FORMING A PINCERS AROUND IO
A FULL-SCALE LAND-AIR BATTLE ENSUED...
BUT THE THICK ARMOR OF THE "OCTOPUS" TANKS PROVED IMPERVIOUS TO THE BEST APHRODDIA COULD THROW AT THEM
MEAN-WHILE, THEIR 160mm SMOOTH-BORE CANNONS AND 200mm MISSILE TUBES ROARED WITHOUT LETUP.

TO BE CONTINUED...

COMING NEXT MONTH IN
THE VENUS WARS
ZZRT
ZZRT

DARK HORSE COMICS

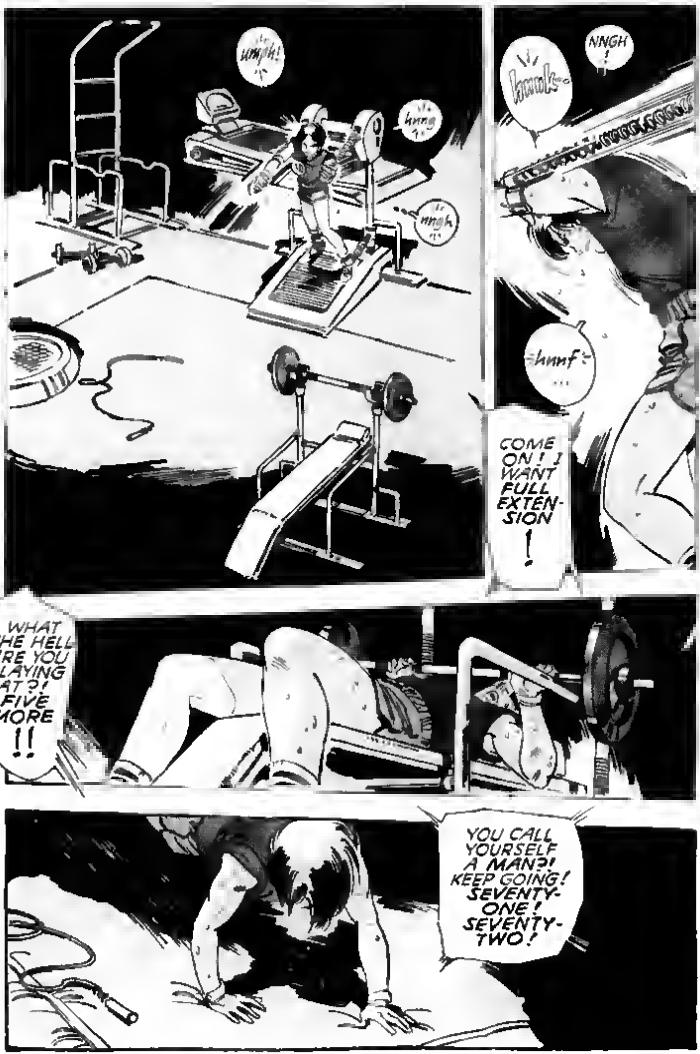
The STRIP WARS™

4

$2.25 U.S.,
$2.75 CANADA

YOSHIKAZU YASUHIKO

haah
haah
haah
huuh
07
huhh
haah
huuh
hff
07
huuh
YOU'RE SLOWING DOWN, SOLDIER !
BRING IT BACK UP TO NINETY !
FIVE MORE MIN-UTES AT NINETY-EIGHT !
KEEP IT UP !
haah
huuh
huuh


UNGH!
hnng
mngh
NNGH!
Rrrrrk
hnnf
COME ON! I WANT FULL EXTENSION!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU PLAYING AT?! FIVE MORE!!
YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN?! KEEP GOING! SEVENTY-ONE! SEVENTY-TWO!

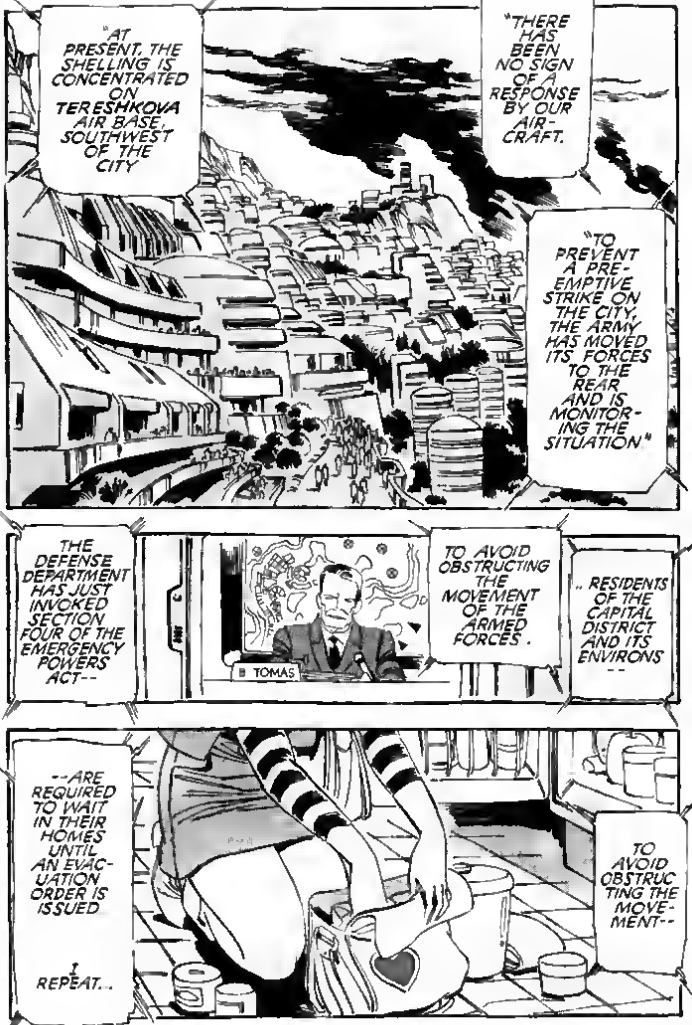
huuhhhh
THAT LITTLE BIT OF EXERCISE TOO MUCH FOR YOU, eh?
DON'T GIVE UP NOW, SENO. YOUR BODY'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAVE YOU.
IN THE END, YOU'VE GOT NOTHING ELSE
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE CITY?!
TELL ME!!
WE'RE AT WAR, RIGHT?! WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE?!

IT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
THE CITY'S SAFE ENOUGH FOR THE TIME BEING.
SO WHAT ABOUT THAT WOMAN I RESCUED ?
RELAX. SHE HAD ONLY MINOR INJURIES.
SINCE WE HAD SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK HER ANYWAY, SHE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE ARMY HOSPITAL.
AND WE SENT YOUR FRIENDS HOME. ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO KNOW, YOUR MAJESTY ?
klik
IF NOT, I SUGGEST YOU EAT YOUR LUNCH
YOU ONLY HAVE TWO HOURS FOR A NAP BEFORE YOUR NEXT SESSION.
kchak

OTHER SOLDIERS SPEND A TOTAL OF ONE THOUSAND HOURS ON THIS COURSE BEFORE THEY GO ON TO SIMULATION TRAINING.
RIGHT NOW YOU'RE AT THE THREE HUNDRED HOUR MARK.
HFF! WONDERFUL!
ONLY SEVEN HUNDRED HFF!S TO GO!
I FEEL JUST LIKE A BOXER TRAINING TO CHALLENGE THE CHAMP!
AT THIS RATE, I WON'T NEED AN ARMORED BIKE...
CRUNCH
...I FEEL LIKE I COULD TEAR THOSE TANKS APART WITH MY BARE HANDS!
ISHTAR... TERRA...
EVEN THOSE ANCIENT VENUSIAN MONSTERS!!

YOU'RE READY.
I LIKE TO SEE A KICK-ASS ATTITUDE.
KEEP IT UP WHEN YOU MEET THE ENEMY!
KREEE
YES. I LIKE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE NOW!
HEH HEH
LOOK

IT'S AN EVIL THING, WAR
THIS IS HOW WAR CAN CHANGE A MAN'S FACE
BUT, THE STRUGGLE MAKES YOUR BLOOD RUN HOT, MAKES YOU TRULY ALIVE
WHAT I'M GIVING YOU IS POWER!
IF YOU MASTER IT, BEND IT TO YOUR WILL, YOU'LL BECOME SOMETHING FAR GREATER--
--THAN WHAT YOU ARE NOW
YOU WILL BURN WITH THE WHITE-HOT GLOW OF LIFE ITSELF
FASTER! FASTER!!
ONE-TWENTY!
huhh
haah
huuh
hff
FIVE MINUTES LEFT!
FASTER!!


"AT PRESENT, THE SHELLING IS CONCENTRATED ON TERESHKOVA AIR BASE, SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY
"THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGN OF A RESPONSE BY OUR AIR-CRAFT.
"TO PREVENT A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE ON THE CITY, THE ARMY HAS MOVED ITS FORCES TO THE REAR AND IS MONITOR-ING THE SITUATION"
THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS JUST INVOKED SECTION FOUR OF THE EMERGENCY POWERS ACT--
TOMAS
TO AVOID OBSTRUCTING THE MOVEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES.
.. RESIDENTS OF THE CAPITAL DISTRICT AND ITS ENVIRONS --
--ARE REQUIRED TO WAIT IN THEIR HOMES UNTIL AN EVAC-UATION ORDER IS ISSUED
I REPEAT...
TO AVOID OBSTRUC TING THE MOVE-MENT--

THE GOVERNMENT HAS CALLED AN EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL
STAY TUNED TO THE NEWS FOR FURTHER NOTIFICATION--
WHAT A MISERABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS...
OUR FORCES ARE POWERLESS AGAINST A SINGLE TANK BATTALION...
TOTALLY UNPREPARED
ABSOLUTELY NOT!!
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU-- YOU CAN'T GO OUT!
BUT, MOMMMIEE..
THAT'S ENOUGH!
I JUST WANNA GO TO TOM'S AND PLAY...
HOW COME MAGGIE GETS TO GO OUT?
!?
MAGGIE!!

YOU GET BACK HERE !!
JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING AT A TIME LIKE THIS ?!
SORRY, MOM !
I PROMISED TO MEET A FRIEND ...
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, PROMISE !
MAGGIEEEE!!
VRRM
VRRMMMMM
MMMMMMMMM

"THE DEATH ROCK AND DELMONT RIVER EXITS ARE BOTH CLOSED!
VRMMMMM
"THE GREY HILL FREE-WAY WILL BE CLOSED MOMENTARILY.
B-14
500 METERS
JONK
Beep Beep
"ALL VEHICLES NOW ON THE FREEWAY, FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS AND DETOUR ONTO THE NEAREST FEEDER ROAD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
BRMMBB
"TRAFFIC IN THE OUTBOUND DIRECTION FROM ROUTE 11 TO ROUTE 15 IS AT A COMPLETE STAND-STILL.
"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THROUGH TO TRINO, FILLMORE, OR NEW ALBERTA
HONKHONK
"THIS IS BY JOINT ORDER OF THE TRAFFIC BUREAU AND MARTIAL LAW HEAD-QUARTERS. I REPEAT..."

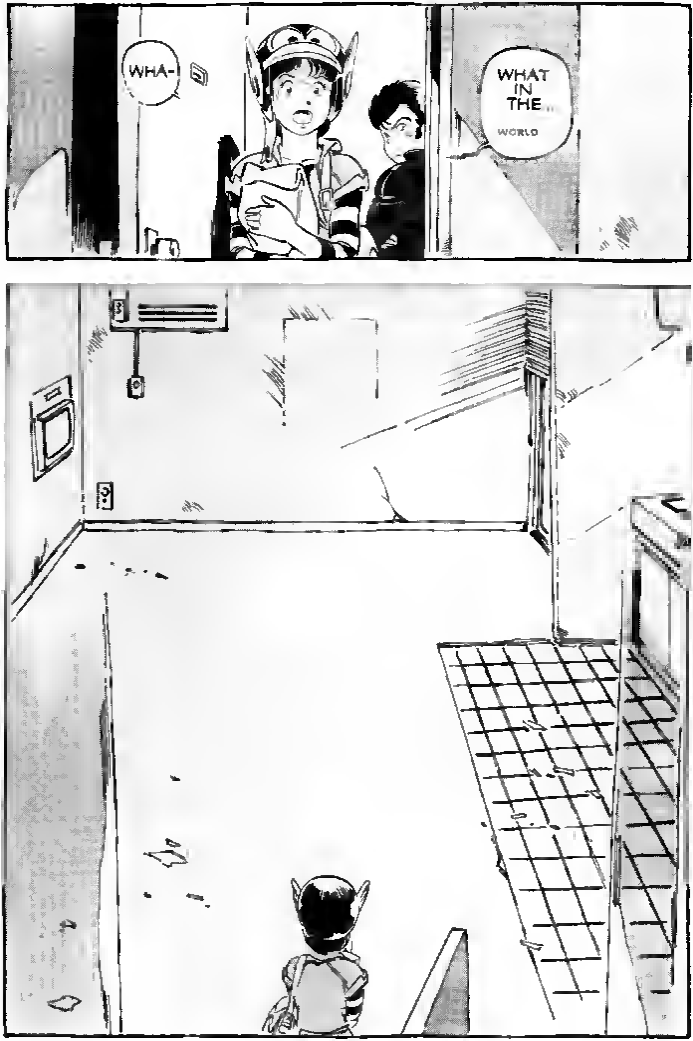
VRMM
WOO-WOO, HONEY ...
WHAT-CH, HURRY?
C'MON AN' RIDE WITH US, WHYNCHA ...
VRMMM
MAGGIE!
HEY, WHAT'S UP?
TOLL
ROSIE!!
SO, WHERE YA GOIN' WITH ALL THAT LUGGAGE?

GEE, YOU GUYS SHOULD TALK!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ON VACATION OR SOMETHING!
VRMMM
heh heh...
MY BOYFRIEND'S GOT A PLACE NEAR LAKE PINDOS...
..SO WE'RE GONNA HIDE OUT THERE
I MEAN..
THIS WAR'S SUCH A DRAG, DON'T YA THINK?
Ok, YEAH I BET YOU'RE GOING TO KEN'S, RIGHT?
HEY I HEAR YOU GO OVER THERE AND CLEAN HIS ROOM AND COOK FOR HIM..
I ALSO HEAR THAT'S ALL YOU DO
TRUE?

SO?!
BEEP! BEEP!
WHAT'S SO STRANGE ABOUT THAT?!
YOU GOTTA ASK?
HEE HEE
YOU TWO ARE SUCH, SUCH PRUDES!!
ESPECIALLY NOWADAYS!
I MEAN REEEELY...
I GUESS YOU REALLY ARE THAT KIND OF GIRL!
ROSIE!! GEEZ!
GUESS THE GAME'S ON HOLD FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?
HEY, WAIT!!
MAGGIE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?!!
BYE-BYE!!
MMARGS

COFFEE
ELV
B-16
I'VE PHONED AND PHONED, BUT HE'S *NEVER* HOME!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
AT LEAST I KNOW HIS DOOR LOCK CODE!
SO WHO CARES?!
I'LL LET MYSELF IN EVEN IF HE'S NOT THERE!

HEY MAGGIE
KEN
KEN'S NOT HOME
R-REALLY?!
WELL uh, THAT'S OKAY
I WAS JUST GOING TO DROP SOMETHING OFF ANYWAY...
...
hm?

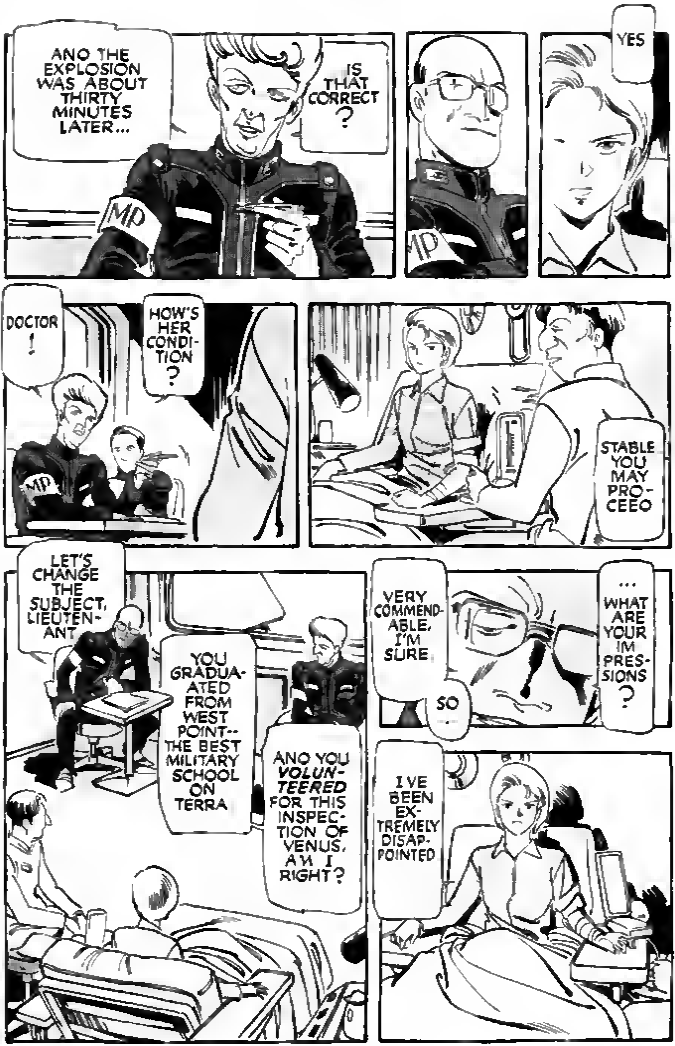

WHA-
WHAT IN THE... WORLD

HE WON'T BE BACK, YOU KNOW ...
HE--
WHERE DID HE GO?! DO YOU KNOW?!
PLEASE, ROB!! TELL ME!!
DON'T EVEN ASK!
WHY NOT!! WHERE IS HE?!
WHERE?!
REAL FAR AWAY!
I DIDN'T ASK HOW FAR!
WHERE IS HE?!
YOU'RE BEING STUPID!!
OKAY!!
YOU ASKED FOR IT!!
HE'S GOT ANOTHER GIRLFRIEND!!

.....
.....
OKAY ?! YOU HAPPY NOW ?!
AND LOOK AT YOU ...
N-NO ...
D-DON'T SAY THAT ...
RUNNING AROUND, BRINGING HIM FOOD AN' STUFF ...
WHAT AN IDIOT !!
THERE WAS AN EXPLO-SION, AND HE RAN RIGHT INTO THIS BURNING BUILD-ING--
--TO RESCUE THIS GORGEOUS BABE!! AND THEN HE LEFT WITH HER!!
WELL, IT'S THE TRUTH I SAW THEM MY-SELF!
NO!!
NO!
NO PLEASE ...

NO
IT CAN'T BE TRUE
TMP
KSH
AAHUHUH
.....
I-I
LOOK I'M SORRY
snff

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CENTER..
SO, THEN--
--WHEN YOU LEFT THE ROOM...
...YOU SAY MAJOR SIMS WAS STILL THERE?
YES THE MAJOR CALLED A NURSE FOR ME
tak takka
SO YOU LEFT, BUT THE MAJOR RE-MAINED..
ARE YOU ABSO-LUTELY SURE?


ANO THE EXPLOSION WAS ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES LATER...
IS THAT CORRECT ?
MP
MP
YES
DOCTOR !
HOW'S HER CONDI-TION ?
MP
STABLE YOU MAY PRO-CEED
LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT, LIEUTEN-ANT
YOU GRADUA-ATED FROM WEST POINT-- THE BEST MILITARY SCHOOL ON TERRA
ANO YOU *VOLUN-TEERED* FOR THIS INSPEC-TION OF VENUS, AM I RIGHT ?
VERY COMMEND-ABLE, I'M SURE
SO ...
... WHAT ARE YOUR IM PRES-SIONS ?
I VE BEEN EX-TREMELY DISAP-POINTED

UNFORTUNATELY, NEGATIVE ATTITUDES SEEM TO DOMINATE HERE.
HOSTILITY, DESPAIR, SUSPICION TOWARDS STRANGERS, AND A DEEP DISTRUST OF TERRA.
EVERY INDICATION IS THAT THIS IS BECAUSE NO ONE BELIEVES IN THE FUTURE OF VENUS
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE THE COLLISION WITH ASTEROID APOLLON, CARBON DIOXIDE HAS BEGUN BUILDING UP IN VENUS ATMOSPHERE AGAIN.
AND MANKIND TODAY IS NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO REVERSE THIS TREND AND SUSTAIN WHAT WAS JUST, AFTER ALL, A STROKE OF GOOD LUCK.
BUT
THAT MAKES IT ALL THE MORE ABSURD TO SPEED UP THE RACE TOWARD ANNIHILATION!
MP
YOU'RE ALL FOOLS! WHY DO YOU DWELL ON LITTLE THINGS--
--AND AVERT YOUR EYES FROM YOUR REAL PROBLEMS?!
YOU ACT LIKE FRIGHTENED CHILDREN. DEADLY EARNEST OVER TRIFLES--
--AND CLOSING YOUR EYES TO EVERYTHING ELSE!!

IF YOU SUSPECT ME OF BEING A TERROR-IST, FINE!
FOR EXAMPLE, HOW WAS I ABLE TO CAUSE EXPLOSIONS IN SEVERAL PLACES I HAD NEVER BEEN?!
IN THAT CASE, THERE ARE OTHER THINGS YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT
AND WHY WOULD I BLOW UP A BUILDING I WAS IN?! AND WHY--
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW.
THANK YOU, LIEUTEN-ANT
WE'LL TALK AGAIN.
WHEN YOU'RE CALMER, WE'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE TERRAN VIEWPOINT ...

vreeeeeeeeee
THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF ISHTAR YESTERDAY ISSUED A STATEMENT--
"APHRODIA MUST CEASE ITS ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES--
"RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION AT THE APHRODIAN CAPITAL BELONGS TO APHRODIA--
sighh
"--AND DEMOBILIZE ITS AGGRESSIVE ARMED FORCES."
WHAT A TIME FOR THIS!!
IN RESPONSE, THE APHRODIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED--
--IT WILL LAUNCH A FULL-SCALE RESISTANCE AND DEFENSE OF THE CAPITAL ...
Ohhhh... THIS IS SO FOOLISH ...
kchak
??

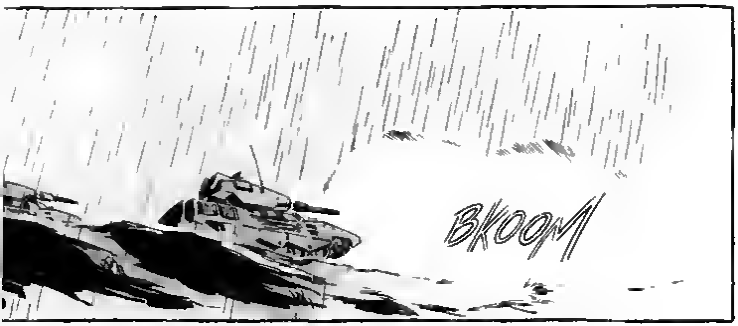
HELEN MAC-LUTH, IS IT ?
TIME FOR YOUR SHOT ..
Y- YOU!
AREN'T YOU ...
THE
uh...
Heh, heh... SO MUCH FOR MY POWERS OF DISGUISE, I GUESS!
SO YOU KNOW ME, huh? HOW COME ?

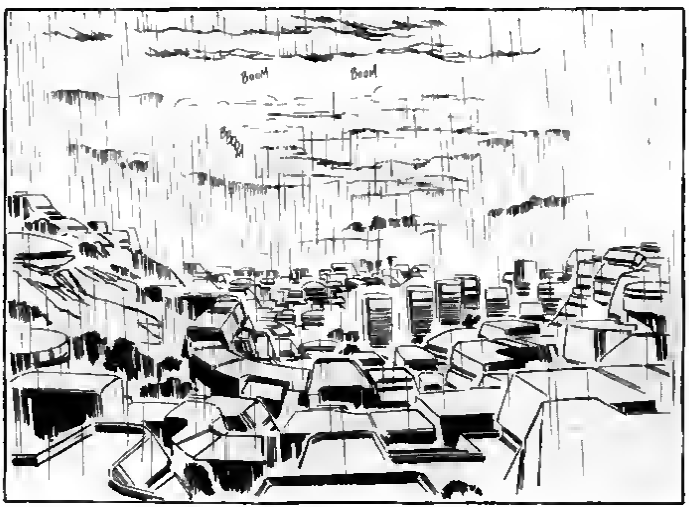
GRRZZ
GRRZZ

THE OCTOPUS BATTALION IS A BONE CAUGHT IN OUR THROAT
IF WE DON'T REMOVE IT BEFORE REINFORCE-MENTS ARRIVE, IT COULD BE FATAL!
GUZZ
GUZZ
WE RE MOBILIZ-ING TWO DIVISIONS FOR THIS OPERA-TION
THAT'S THE ENTIRE DEFENSE FORCE AVAILABLE IN THE CAPITAL
BUT THE ODDS ARE STILL AGAINST US IN ADJUSTED FIGHTING POWER, WE'RE OUT-NUMBERED TWENTY TO ONE
THIS IS LARGE LY DUE TO THE OCTO-PUS BATTA LION

GGRRNNN
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, YOUR MOBILE UNIT IS JUST A DECOY.
THE REAL PURPOSE OF THIS OPERATION IS TO GIVE YOU SOME COMBAT EXPER-IENCE.
WHMP
THE RAIN WILL CONTINUE FOR A WHILE, BUT IT'LL DEGRADE THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR THERMAL IMAGING EQUIPMENT.
ONCE THEY START MOVING, GET RIGHT UP ALONGSIDE THEM!
HEY ...
YOU'RE THE GREENHORN WITH ONLY TWENTY HOURS ON THE SIMULATION, huh?

I HEAR YOU GOT ALL YOUR TRAINING IN BATTLE-BIKE GAMES,
RIGHT ?!
HEY, YOU !!
PUT A SOCK IN IT !!
THE OCTOPUS'S ONLY VULNERABLE POINTS ARE AT THE JOINTS AND THE REAR PANELS
SO GET AS CLOSE AS YOU CAN DON'T EXPECT TO BRING IT DOWN WITH ONE SHOT
ONCE YOU DECIDE ON A TARGET, HIT IT HARD AND KEEP ON HITTING
THAT LIEU-TENANT KURTZ ...
HE'S A TRICKY BAS-TARD
WHY
GRNNNNNNN


BKOOM


Boom
Boom
Boom

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING'S STARTED--
--OUT THERE IN THE FLATLANDS.
MUST BE A COUNTER-ATTACK BY APHRODIA.
I DON'T KNOW...
I GUESS THIS WAS A DUMB THING FOR ME TO DO...
IT LOOKED LIKE YOU AND MY LITTLE TEAMMATE MUST BE REAL FRIENDLY...
KREEK
MIRANDA!
SO I FIGURED, "HEY, I OUGHTA CHECK HER OUT. WORTH SOME TROUBLE, ANYWAY--"

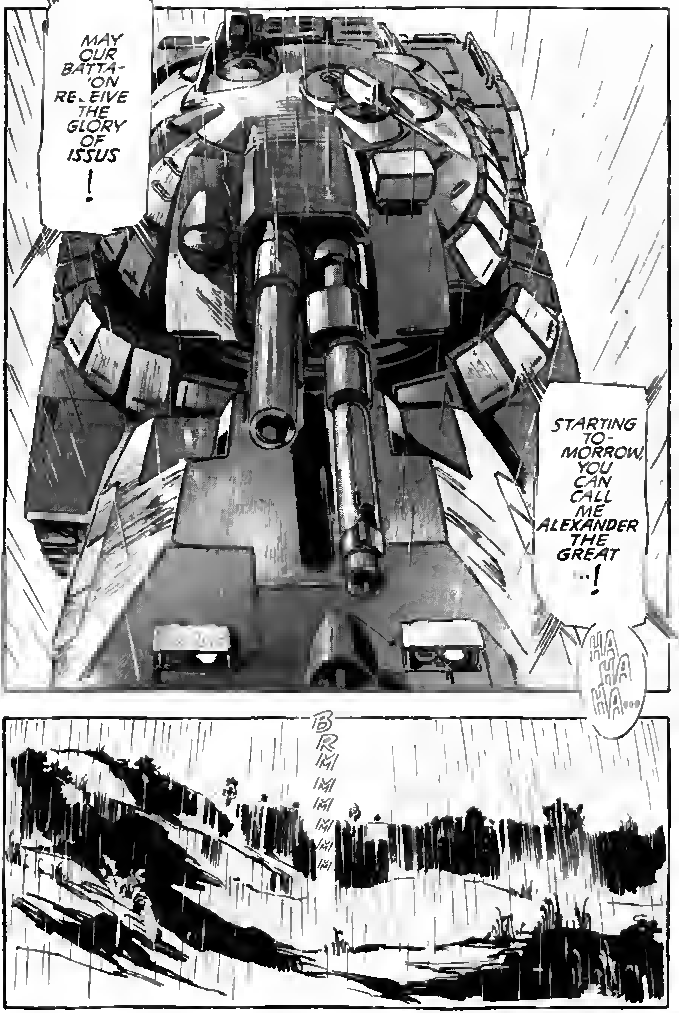
THAT IS YOUR NAME, RIGHT? LOOK, I NEED YOUR HELP!
I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT!!
THIS IS A CRITICAL TIME FOR BOTH OUR WORLDS-- I HAVE TO GET TO THE TERRAN MISSION RIGHT AWAY!
THEY NEED MY REPORT ON THIS SITUATION!
MY, MY, MY!
SUCH BIIIG, IMPORTANT TALK!
MIRANDA!!

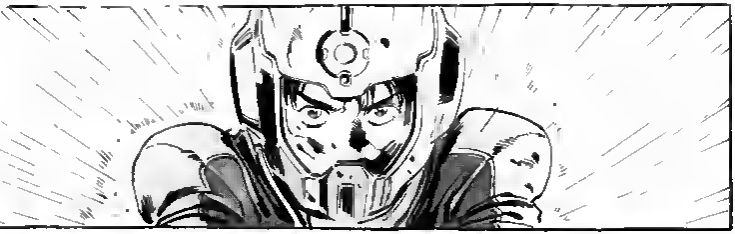
shit
ZERO-FOUR! WILLY! GET YOUR ASS IN GEAR!
ZERO-FIVE! CARMINE!!
WELL, WELL!
THE BATTLE-BIKE HERO!
NOW IT'S FOR REAL, eh?
TRY NOT TO GET YOUR SUIT DIRTY IT'S BRAND NEW!
SO IS YOURS, LIEUTENANT
THIS IS YOUR FIRST CAMPAIGN TOO, RIGHT?

VREEEEEEEEEEE
HOUND SPECIAL INTERCEPTOR UNIT! YOU HAVE THE HONOR OF THE FIRST ASSAULT!
ATTACK!!
BRMMMM

BRMMM
BRMMM
BRMM
BRMMMMMM

SAHARA BATTALION TO HQ !
WE'VE ENCOUNTERED OUR FIRST ORGANIZED RESISTANCE . . .
WE EXPECT NO DIFFICULTIES IN TAKING THEM OUT
NOW FANNING OUT TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY . . .


MAY OUR BATTA-ON RE-EIVE THE GLORY OF ISSUS !
STARTING TO-MORROW, YOU CAN CALL ME ALEXANDER THE GREAT ...!
HA HA HA...
BRIMIMIMIMIMIMI



TO BE CONTINUED...

DARK HORSE COMICS

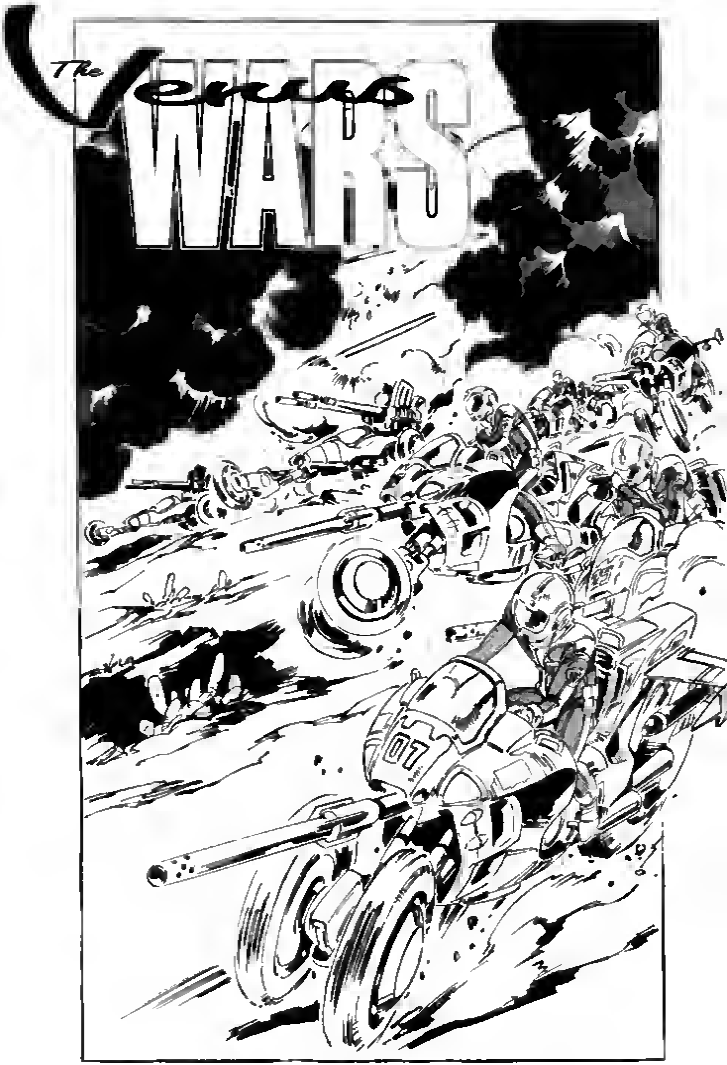
The Venus Wars

5

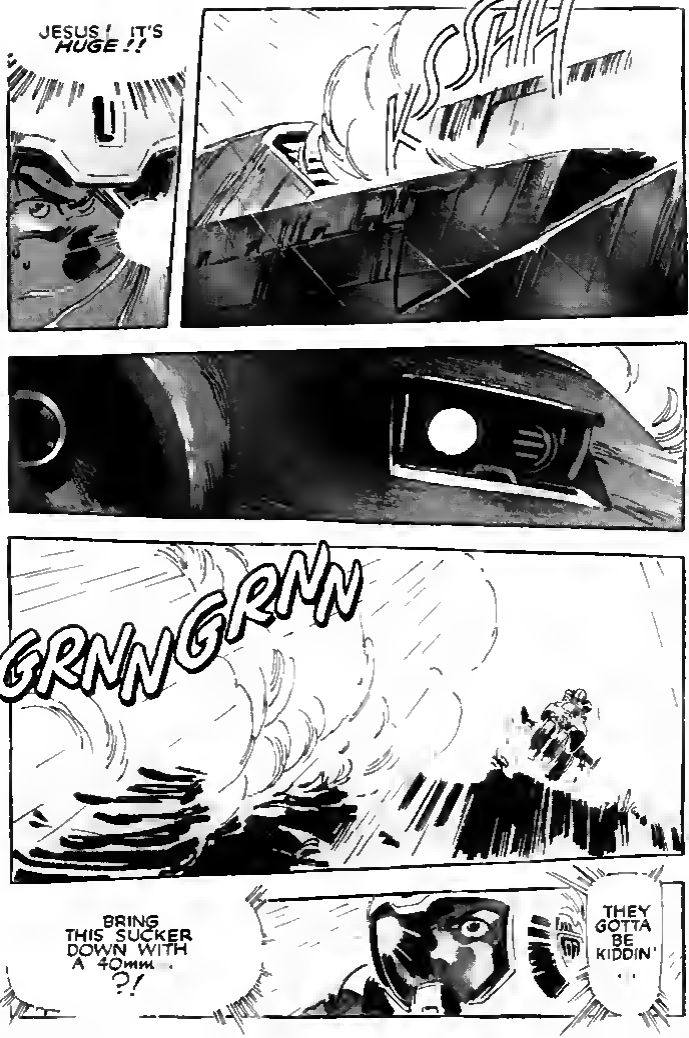
$2.25 u.s.,
$2.75 canada

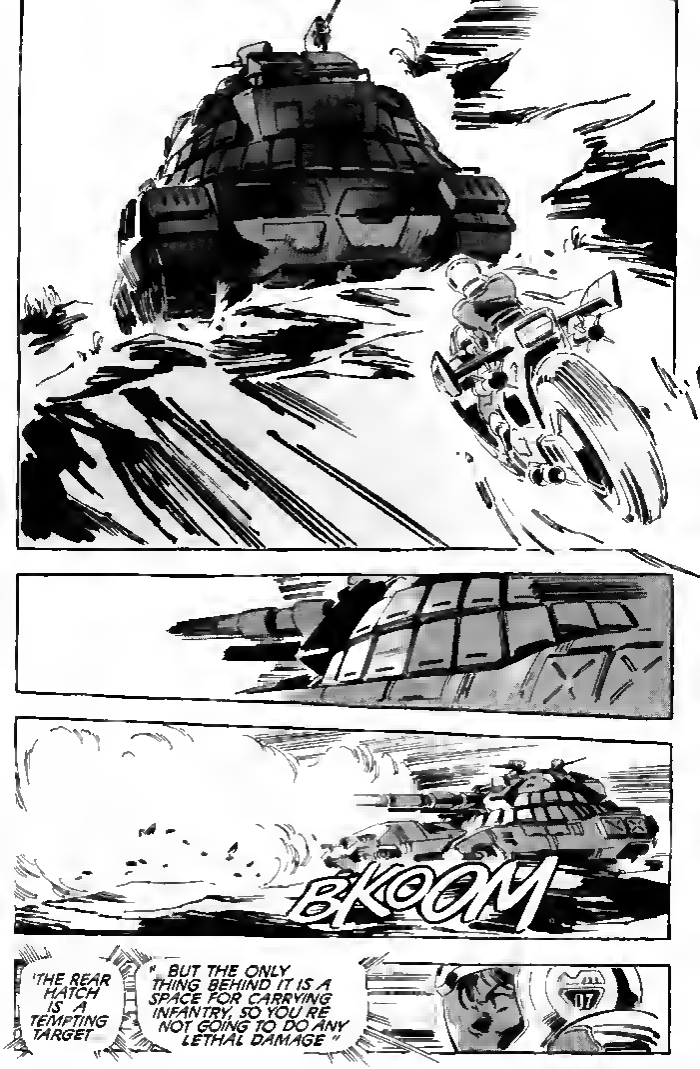
YOSHIKAZU YASUHIKO

STUDIO PROTEUS


The
WARS

BRMMM
07


JESUS! IT'S HUGE!!
KSSHH
GRNNGRNN
BRING THIS SUCKER DOWN WITH A 40mm ?!
THEY GOTTA BE KIDDIN'


BKOOM
"THE REAR HATCH IS A TEMPTING TARGET"
"BUT THE ONLY THING BEHIND IT IS A SPACE FOR CARRYING INFANTRY, SO YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANY LETHAL DAMAGE"

"AIM FOR THE ENGINE ROOM TO THE RIGHT--
"--OR THE TURRET RING ON TOP."
"IF THE RING IS PROTECTED BY REACTIVE ARMOR, USE A HEAT MISSILE
"KEEP COOL AND PLACE YOUR SHOTS CAREFULLY!"
LET'S GO!

GUARDIAN

HELEN MACLUTH . . . ?
IT'S LIGHTS OUT --
WHOK
THAT WAS MY LINE!
FWUMP
HURRY! YOU ASKED ME TO GET YOU OUTTA HERE, RIGHT?!
I . . .
YES, BUT .
UH-- THINK IT'S TOO BIG
A BIT
WHO THE HELL CARES!!

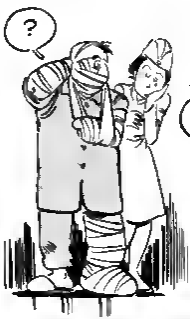
REAL BUSY OUT THERE ...
103
THE BUSIER THE BETTER, I GUESS
DON'T ACT NERVOUS !
W-7
A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SEE US...
YOU READY ?
YOUR LEG OKAY ?
HANG ON! JUST A LITTLE FARTHER !
SAY, NURSE !
WHERE'S THE NMR LAB STATION ?
"STATION" ?!
UH OH

WHAT KINDA DUMB QUESTION IS THAT?! YOU SEE ANY TRAIN TRACKS HERE?!
THIS IS A HOSPITAL, NOT A RAIL-ROAD!!
Huh? heh heh OF COURSE RIGHT
WHAT!!
?
??
??
DR. WILSON! DR. J. L. WILSON!
PLEASE REPORT TO ROOM 703 IMMEDI-ATELY !!
!!
LET'S GO!!

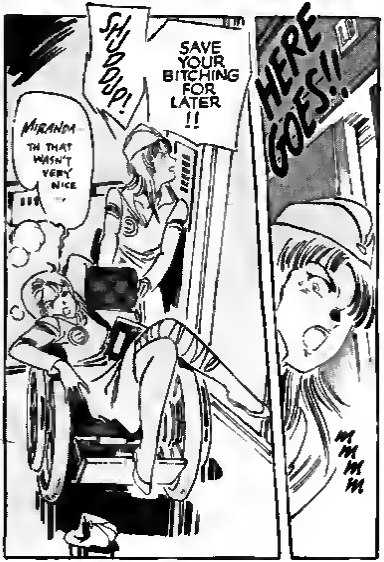
PATIENTS ONLY
tink!
creeeeak

MOVE IT !!
OUTTA THE WAY !
C'MON !!

Ksshh


?
Hmmm ..?

ting!


SHJOOO!
SAVE YOUR BITCHING FOR LATER !!
MIRANDA
TH THAT WASN'T VERY NICE ...
HERE GOES!!
MMMM

OUTTA MY WAY!!
MOVE IT OR LOSE IT!!
THE PATIENT IN ROOM 703 HAS ESCAPED!!
SEAL THE EXITS!!
YESSIR! WE'LL GET RIGHT ON IT!!
?
WHOOSH
CLEAR THE ROAD!!
EMERGENCY HERE!
MOVE IT!!

TAKE US TO THE TERRAN CONSULATE!
AND STEP ON IT! OKAY?!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
THIS ISN'T A TAXI!
HEY--
SHUDDUP AL-READY!!
WHY, YOU--!!
VRMM
WE'RE IN A HURRY...
GET THE PICTURE?

ZERO-SEVEN!
COME IN, ZERO-SEVEN!
ZERO-SEVEN!!
ZERO-SEVEN!!
ZERO-SEVEN!!
ZERO-SEVEN!! KEN!!
HEY! ARE YOU ALIVE?!

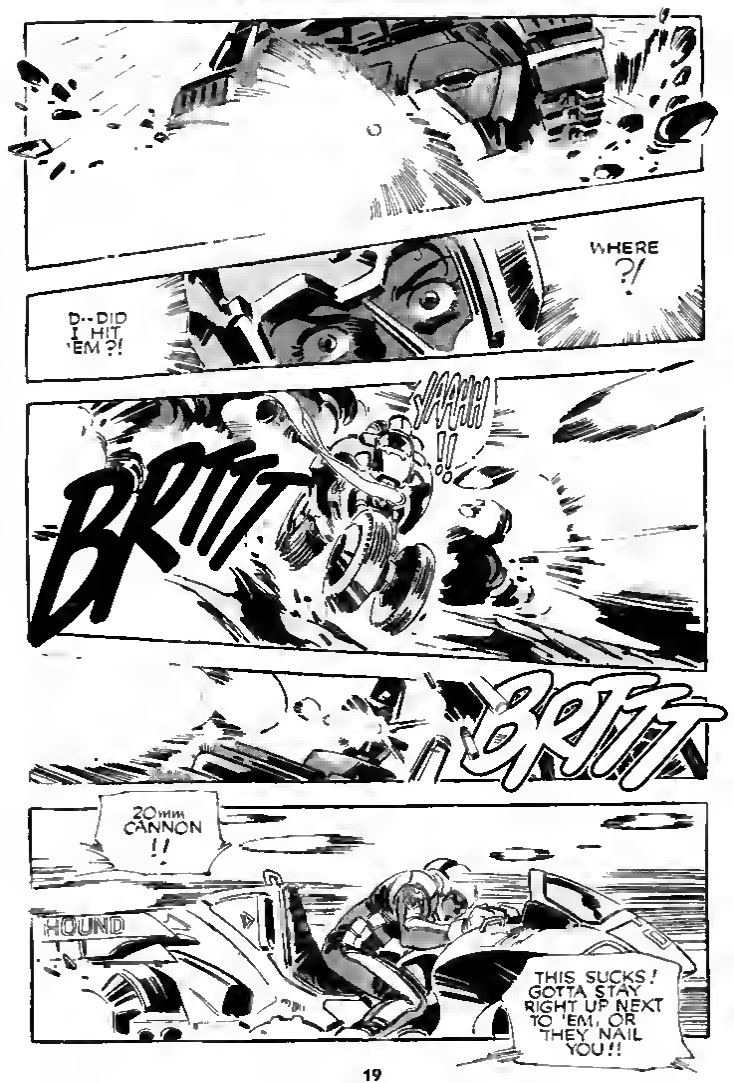
ZERO-SEVEN HERE! I WASN'T HIT!
WRAMM
I JUST GOT THROWN BY A NEAR MISS ...
TANK SHELL OR A MISSILE OR SOMETHING--ONE OF OURS!!
GOD DAMN IT!!
COUPLE MORE SECONDS ...
AND HE WOULD'VE BEEN MINE!
KHK
KCHAK
BRMMMM
IS YOUR HOUND STILL OPERATIONAL, ZERO-SEVEN?!
IF YOU DON'T NEED EVAC, GET OUT OF THERE!!
MORE OF THEM ARE BREAKING THROUGH TO THE SOUTH!
WHKOOM

HIT 'EM HARD, MEN !
AND KEEP ON HITTING 'TIL YOUR AMMO RUNS OUT...
...OR YOU BASTARDS WON'T HAVE ANYPLACE TO RETURN TO !!
BVOOM

ALL RIGHT!! NOW THE CANNON !!

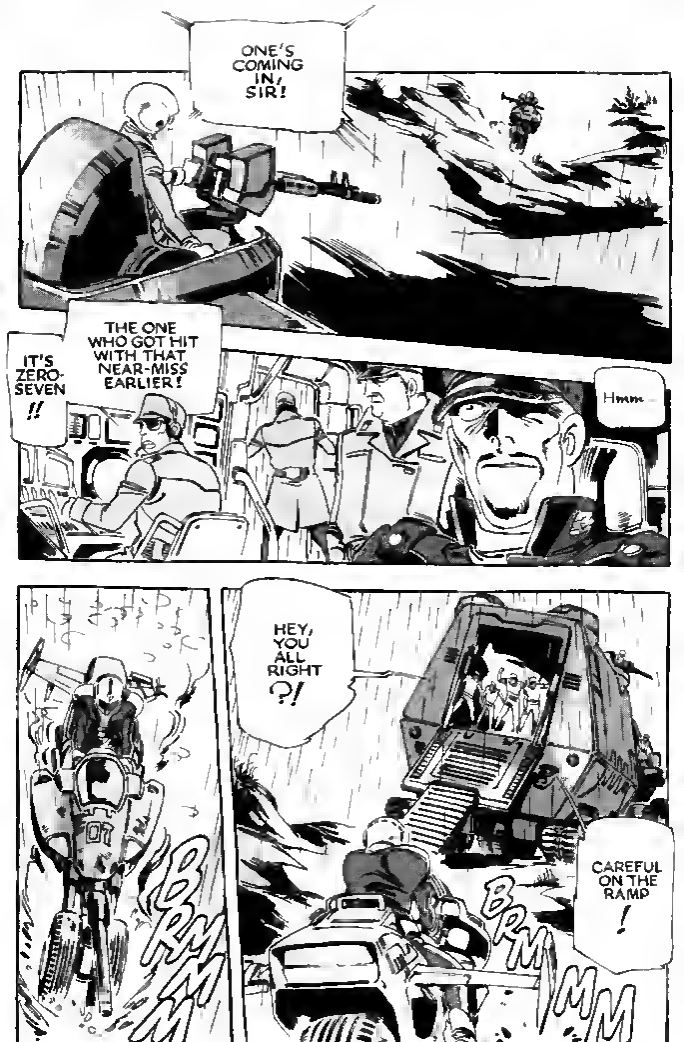
07
GRNGRN

chak
BRTTT
SHIT!!
GOTTA LINE IT UP!!
07
GOT YOU!!
RAM


D--DID I HIT 'EM?!
WHERE?!
BRTTT
WAAH!!
BRTTT
20mm CANNON!!
HOUND
THIS SUCKS! GOTTA STAY RIGHT UP NEXT TO 'EM, OR THEY NAIL YOU!!

"KEEP FIRING!
"SHOOT UNTIL YOUR MAGAZINE'S EMPTY!!"
"AND DON'T COME BACK--
"--UNTIL IT IS!!"
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM

klik
klik
KRAKOOM


ONE'S COMING IN, SIR!
THE ONE WHO GOT HIT WITH THAT NEAR-MISS EARLIER!
IT'S ZERO-SEVEN !!
Hmm...
HEY, YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
CAREFUL ON THE RAMP !
BRMMM
BRMMM

HEY, DID YA REALLY GET ONE?!
YOU HURT ?!
DAMAGE TO THE REAR PYLONS!!
STAND BY WITH THE FOAM!!
GET A RELOAD !
HURRY !
BRMM
KCHAK
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS ?!
THEY'RE FINE!
DON'T SWEAT IT WE AIN'T LOST ANYONE YET!

AND THE COMMANDER?
LIEUTENANT KURTZ?
DOC SAYS THE DRIVER'S LEG HAS CONTUSIONS AND SECOND DEGREE BURNS!
RIGHT MISSILE PYLON'S BUSTED
NOTHING ELSE SERIOUS.
MECHANIC!
HOW'S IT LOOK?!
AS LONG AS HE CAN STILL RIDE!
REPAIR AND RESUPPLY AND SEND HIM BACK OUT!
HEY!
WAIT! YOU CAN'T--
!
BUT HIS LEG'S HURT! HE--
ARE YOU LISTENING, SOLDIER!? SEND HIM BACK OUT!!

UH OH
MAJOR BAD NEWS
HEY, CHIEF! FORGET IT!
THE GEAR-BOX IS TRASHED!
BUT CHIEF!!
THEM'S THE BREAKS, MAJOR. ZERO-SEVEN IS REEE-TIRED!
I'VE GOT TO--
TOUGH LUCK, EH, KID?!
CAP TAIN!
REPLACE ALL THE MECHANICS WHEN WE GET BACK!
YES, SIR!
USELESS IDIOTS!
BUT THE HOUNDS LOOK GOOD, EH, MAJOR ..?
chak!

EXCELLENT RESULTS
WHAT HAVE WE GOT SO FAR? THREE STRIKES?
RIGHT. KURTZ GOT TWO, AND THIS ZERO-SEVEN ANOTHER ONE.
AND TAKE A LOOK AT THIS..
THE OCTOPUS PLATOONS HAVE COMPLETELY BROKEN RANKS
BEEP
BEEP
AT THIS RATE, WE CAN ISOLATE THEM AND PICK THEM OFF ONE BY ONE
SO THE ONLY PROBLEM IS OUR OWN ATTRITION RATE...

GRN
AAAHH!
BRRUTTT

WE CAN'T REACH ZERO TWO OR ZERO-FOUR!
THE BATTLE ZONE'S MOVING CLOSER!

PULL BACK THREE KILOMETERS FROM OUR PRESENT POSITION!
CARRIER WITHDRAWING TO REAR!
YO!
STILL PISSED OFF?
I THINK THAT WAS REAL SHARP OF THOSE MECHANIC GUYS.
I MEAN, GIVE ME A BREAK, MAN! WHY SHOULD WE DIE EARLY JUST FOR SIMS' SAKE?
ALL HE CARES ABOUT IS THE FINAL SCORE!
I HEAR HE GOT HIS FACE BURNED IN A TANK... GUESS THAT EXPLAINS TWO THINGS... WHY HE'S SO UGLY AND WHY HE'S SUCH AN S.O.B.
YOU GOT IT WRONG!
?!
IT'S HIM...
I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT THE MAJOR
HE'S RELOADED TWICE AND GONE OUT AGAIN!

HUH ?
YOU TALKIN' ABOUT KURTZ ?
NO WAY AM I GONNA LET THAT BASTARD BEAT ME.
. . . .
WELL, HEY! THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MAN...
YOU WANNA GET HUNG UP ON THAT KINDA BULL, GO AHEAD
BUT C'MON.. WHY BOTHER? YOU GOT YOURSELF A PRIZE ALREADY.
LOOK AT ME-- I'M GOOD FOR A PURPLE HEART, AND ALL I DID--
--WAS TOTAL MY BIKE!
Heh heh..
ONE MORE COMING IN !
IT'S ZERO-ONE !
HE'S BACK AGAIN !!

TO BE CONTINUED...

The Mars WARS

6

$2.25 u.s.,
$2.75 canada

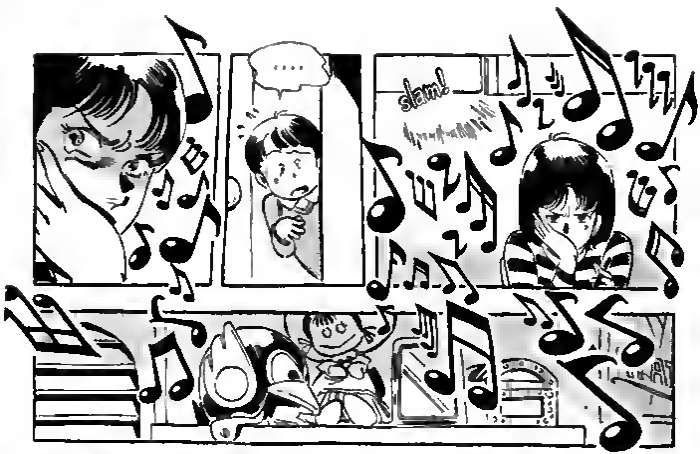
DARK HORSE COMICS
5 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

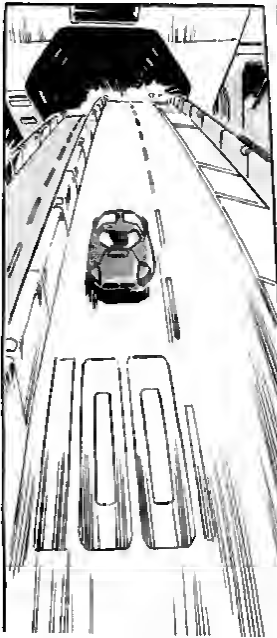
By YOSHIKAZU YASUHIKO

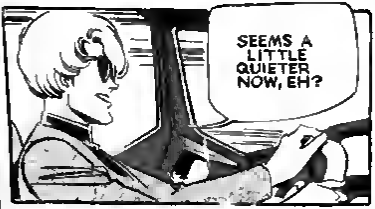
STUDIO PROTEUS

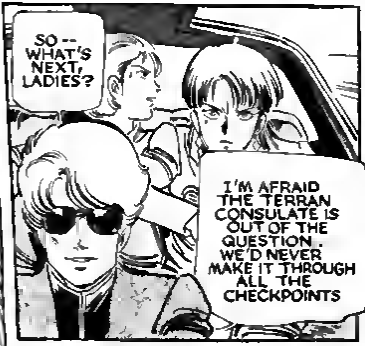
The
WARS

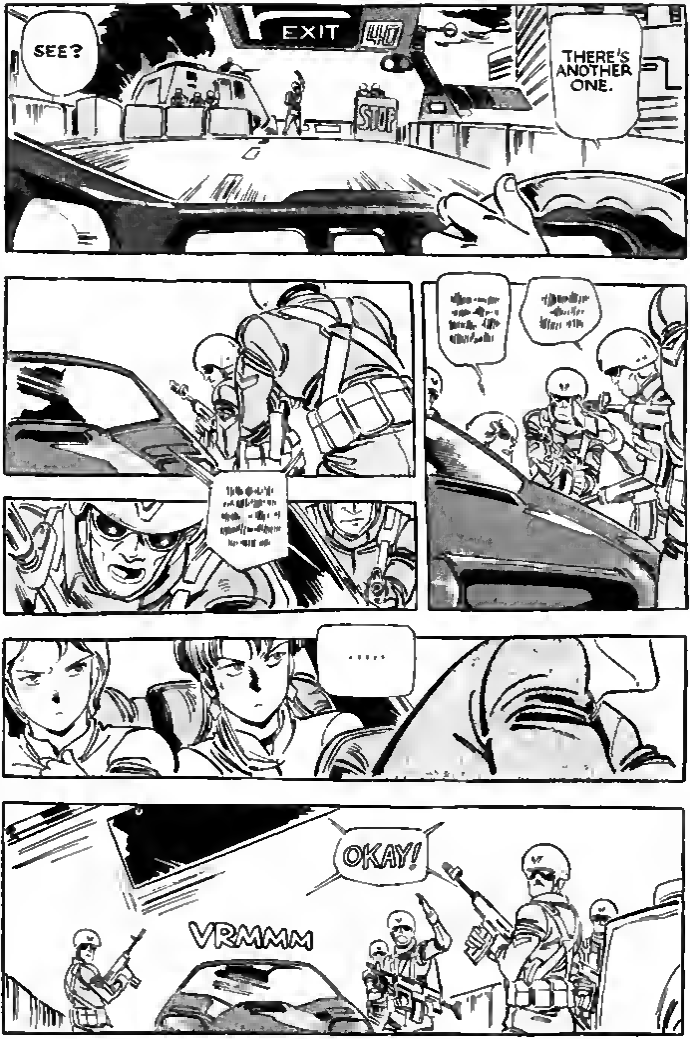
SINCE LAUNCHING THEIR COUNTER-ATTACK JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT ON THE MORNING OF THE FOURTH,
SURPA
CONCERT
OMNI CLUB
...APHRODIA'S ARMORED UNITS APPEAR TO HAVE EFFECTIVELY NEUTRALIZED ISHTAR'S TANKS.
THE FRONT IS NOW SHIFTING TOWARD CHEEL, TO THE WEST OF THE CAPITAL.
EVACUATION OF AREA RESIDENTS HAS ALREADY BEGUN
A GOVERNMENT SPOKES-PERSON SAID...
HEY, SIS !!
DAD SAYS TURN IT DOWN... HE CAN'T HEAR THE NEWS!
tak tak


....
slam!

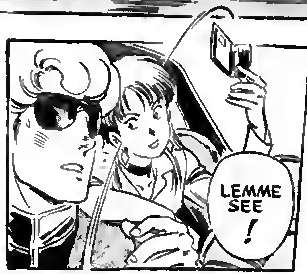



SEEMS A LITTLE QUIETER NOW, EH?

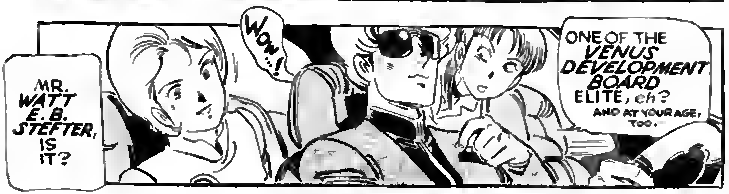

SO -- WHAT'S NEXT, LADIES?
I'M AFRAID THE TERRAN CONSULATE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. WE'D NEVER MAKE IT THROUGH ALL THE CHECKPOINTS

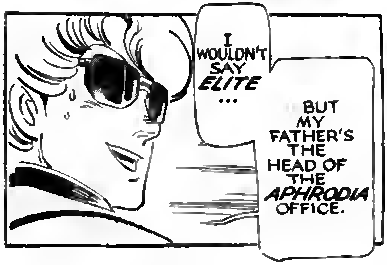

SEE?
EXIT
4WD
STOP
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE.
OKAY!
VRMMM

WELL, WELL... VERY INTER-ESTING.
YOU SEEM TO PULL SOME WEIGHT WITH OUR PALS BACK THERE...


LEMME SEE!

"DIRECTOR, ADMINIS-TRATIVE BUREAU, VDB"..?!

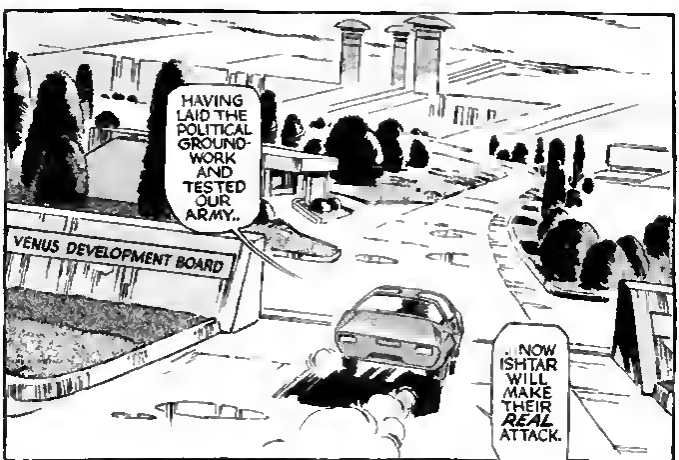

MR. WATT E.B. STEFTER, IS IT?
WOW!
ONE OF THE VENUS DEVELOPMENT BOARD ELITE, eh?
AND AT YOUR AGE, TOO.


I WOULDN'T SAY ELITE...
BUT MY FATHER'S THE HEAD OF THE APHRODIA OFFICE.

HMPH...
SO YOU'RE THE BIG WHEEL'S SONNY BOY..

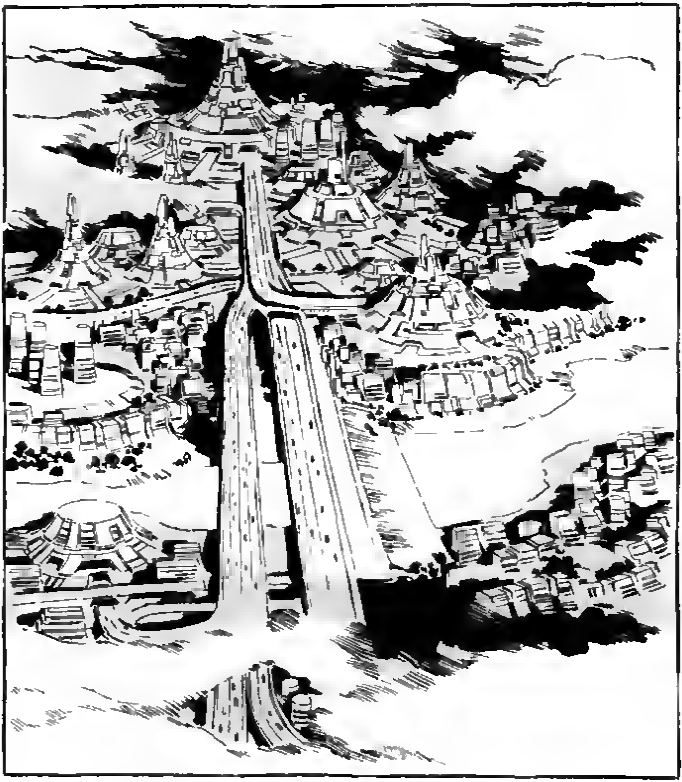
LOOK ...
WHY DON'T I TAKE YOU TO THE VBD OFFICE INSTEAD?
IT'S COMPLETELY NEUTRAL TERRITORY, SO FAR.
...
WHAT A MESS ...
LOOKS LIKE THE WAR'S GOING TO ESCALATE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
WELL, NOW, IT'S OBVIOUS.
ISHTAR HAS CAREFULLY LINED UP ALL THEIR DUCKS... POLITICAL, MILITARY, DIPLOMATIC ... RIGHT?
IT'S ALL TIGHTLY PLANNED... BUT THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE TERRA TAKE SIDES
SO THEY HAD TO COME UP WITH A PRETEXT FOR THE INVASION?
SOMETHING BELIEVABLE.

THEY ALSO HAD GOOD INTELLIGENCE ON THE EXTENT OF APHRODIA'S MILITARY STRENGTH.
FACT IS, WE CAN'T POSSIBLY WITHSTAND A REAL INVASION.


HAVING LAID THE POLITICAL GROUND-WORK AND TESTED OUR ARMY..
VENUS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
..NOW ISHTAR WILL MAKE THEIR REAL ATTACK.

ISHTAR.

GAUGAMERA, THE CAPITAL.



JUNE 21, VENUSIAN YEAR 72.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE AUTONOMOUS STATE OF ISHTAR VOTED TO "TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION" AGAINST APHRODIA.
KARL LEBENDORF, CONSUL FOR THE YEAR 72, ACCEPTED THIS MANDATE--
--AND DECLARED THE SOUTHEAST DISTRICT OF ISHTAR TO BE IN A STATE OF WAR.
THAT SAME DAY, THE 14TH AIR FORCE WING AND SIXTEEN COMBINED-FORCES DIVISIONS THAT HAD ASSEMBLED ON THE EUPHRATES PENINSULA LAUNCHED A MASSIVE OVERSEAS INVASION.

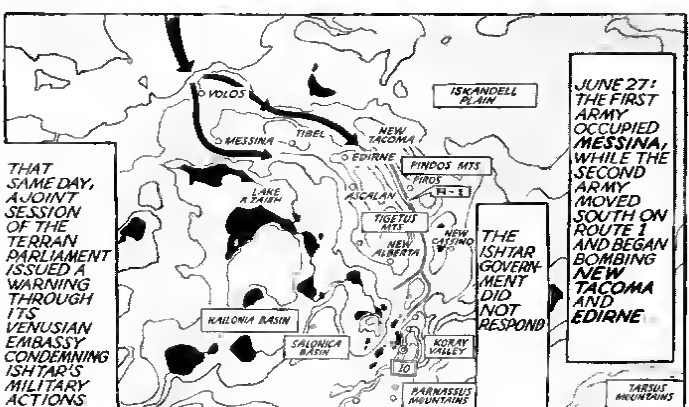
JUNE 23:

THE FIRST TROOPS LANDED TEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF **VOLOS**, MEETING WITH "MINIMAL RESISTANCE."

JUNE 25: IN VOLOS, **GENERAL KLAUS WALDEMAR**, SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE LANDING FORCES, ISSUED A STATEMENT, DECLARING—

"THE DISCIPLINARY ACTION SHOULD TAKE NO MORE THAN TWO WEEKS TO COMPLETE".

THAT SAME DAY, A JOINT SESSION OF THE TERRAN PARLIAMENT ISSUED A WARNING THROUGH ITS VENUSIAN EMBASSY CONDEMNING ISHTAR'S MILITARY ACTIONS



THE ISHTAR GOVERNMENT DID NOT RESPOND

JUNE 27: THE FIRST ARMY OCCUPIED **MESSINA**, WHILE THE SECOND ARMY MOVED SOUTH ON ROUTE 1 AND BEGAN BOMBING **NEW TACOMA** AND **EDIRNE**.

IN APHRODIA, POLITICAL CHAOS ENSUED.

EVEN AS THE GOVERNMENT HASTILY CALLED ITS EASTERN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES HOME...

IT SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL FOR PEACE AND A CEASE-FIRE.

BUT THE COUNCIL, IN AN UPROAR, VOTED IT DOWN.

THE CABINET RESIGNED EN MASSE.

AND ON JUNE 30, A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED.

ITS FIRST GENERAL POLICY SPEECH DECLARED THAT "OUR STATE FACES DIFFICULT DAYS AHEAD..."

GENERAL AYRAHT AKHBAR, (RET.): FIRST-GENERATION IMMIGRANT, FOUNDER OF APHRODIA'S ARMED FORCES--AND LEADER OF THE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS **"MESADA"**...

JUNE 30

A MASS RALLY OF THE MESADA FAITHFUL TOOK PLACE IN **10.**

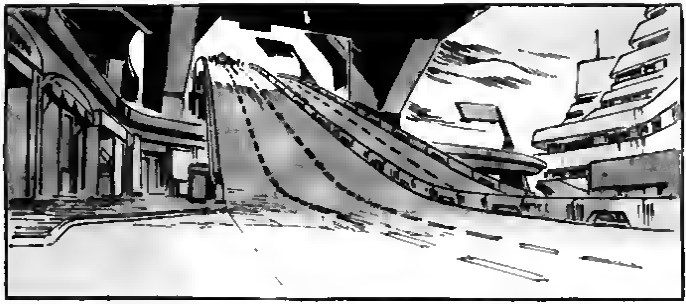
MY FRIENDS!
I MAY BE OLD, BUT I HAVE A FUTURE!
APHRODIA MAY BE IN GREAT DANGER, BUT IT, TOO, HAS A FUTURE!
AND WHY?!
BECAUSE IT HAS LAND AND PEOPLE!
MANY TIMES MORE LAND AND PEOPLE THAN ISHTAR.
AND APHRODIA ALONE OWNS THE FERTILE PLAINS OF KAILONIA AND BORONIA!
MY FRIENDS!!
AS LONG AS WE BELIEVE IN OUR POWER, AND THE LIFE-FORCE OF OUR PLANET, WE SHALL PREVAIL!
WE, THE PEOPLE, SHALL DROWN THE INVADERS IN THE WAVES OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS!!
HURRAH!

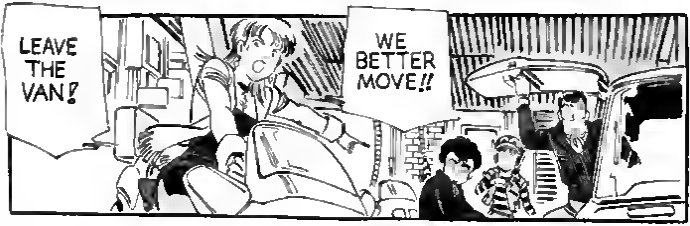
EXCUSE ME DIRECTOR STEFTER ?
AH!
FEELING BETTER NOW? HOW'S YOUR LEG?
YES, THANK YOU. STILL HURTS A LITTLE ..
BUT BASI-CALLY, I FEEL FINE.
GREAT WONDER-FUL.
LEMME CLEAN UP A BIT SORRY ABOUT THE MESS..
WELL, TOMORROW'S THE DAY. AT LAST I CAN FORMALLY PRESENT MY PETITION TO THE CONSULATE.
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, OTHER CONCERNS SEEMS SO TRIVIAL, DON'T THEY...
SO SOON ?
I MEAN... GLAD TO HEAR IT.
YES, DON'T THEY HEH HEH...

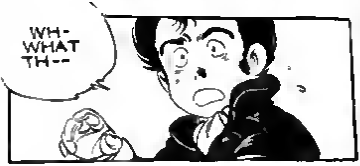
BY THE WAY, DID YOU CATCH THAT OLD GEEZER'S SPEECH?
YES, I DID.
HE'S A SLY OLD WEASEL, AKHBAR IS...
I FIND HIS PHILOSOPHY DANGEROUS. IF YOU TURN IT AROUND, IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS ISHTAR'S LOGIC.
NO, IT'S NOT!
THE ISHTARIANS AREN'T A BUNCH OF FANATICS LIKE AKHBAR AND HIS MESADA CROWD
NO, THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE DOING.
THEY'RE COOL-HEADED EXPANSIONISTS. WHICH IS DANGEROUS, TOO, OF COURSE.
IF, AS THEY CLAIM, THE PLANET IS ALIVE... THEN IT CAN FALL TERMINALLY ILL AND DIE!
THOSE GUYS SCARE THE PANTS OFF OF ME!
BUT NOT LIKE MESADA!
AND ONE THING I AGREE WITH THEM ON --VENUS REALLY IS IN BAD SHAPE!
BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY SUCK EVERYONE IN WITH THIS MYSTIC MUMBO-JUMBO?!

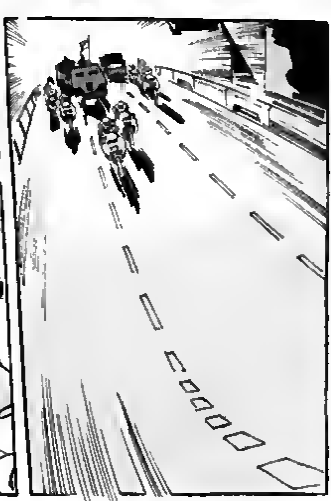
TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE..
THE FIGHT TO SAVE VENUS IS THE REAL WAR.
THOSE LUNATICS ARE JUST PULLING THE NOOSE TIGHTER AROUND A DYING MAN'S NECK
DIRECTOR STEFTER!
THOSE ARE VERY INTERESTING STATEMENTS.
ESPECIALLY COMING FROM A DIRECTOR OF THE VENUS DEVELOPMENT BOARD.
I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION HERE ON VENUS...
BUT I'LL REMEMBER YOUR PREDICTION YOU WERE RIGHT ONCE BEFORE, AFTER ALL
OPEC
CAR WASH
THIS IS BULLSHIT!
THEY'RE OUTTA GAS HERE, TOO!

OH, YEAH ?!
AND WHO WAS IT WHO SAID IF WE WENT TO THE UPPER BLOCK, WE'D FIND "LOTSA GAS STASHED AWAY"..?! MORON!!
SHIT!
HEY, ROB!
I CHECKED OUT THE OFFICE...
AND LOOK WHAT I FOUND!
SISSH
"GOOD GIRL, MAGGIE!"
HEE HEE..
...?
HEY, UH..
...ISN'T THIS, UM, LIKE STEALING?
SURE IS!
UNLESS YOU WANNA CALL IT "BORROWING"
OKAY! ON TO THE NEXT ONE!
?!




LEAVE THE VAN!
WE BETTER MOVE!!


WH-WHAT TH--



GET ON, MAGGIE!
HURRY!
VRRMMM

SKREEE
W-WAIT !
VRRM
BLAM!
YAHEE!!

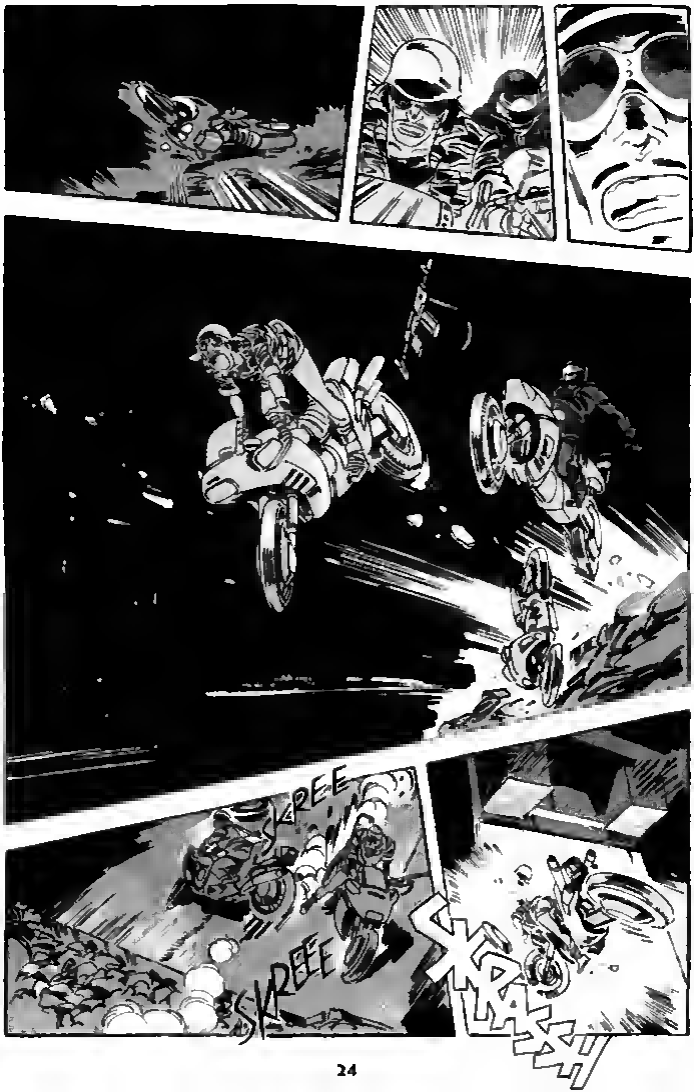
OUR GASO-LINE, !
FORGET IT!!
%$#ING VIGILANTE SQUAD SCUMBALLS!
IF THOSE BASTARDS CATCH US, THEY'LL TORTURE US TO DEATH!!
BLAM
BRTT
VWHIP
VWHIP
EEK!
SKREE
EE
BRTTTTT
VRMMM

VRUMMMM
BRITT
KRAAAAM
GNARR

VRMMM
SKREEEE
MIRANDA!!
THIS ROAD IS--
WE'LL JUMP!!

CONSTRUCTION AHEAD
ROAD WORK
TAKE CARE
STOP
BRTTT

KLIK
VRRM
SKREEE


SKREE
SKREE
CRASH

--YOU DUMB BASTARDS..
THAT'S OPEC THINKING YOU--
....
....

MT. PARNASSUS ARMY BARRACKS
B'KOOM
WHA--?
WHASS GOIN' ON--?
Z...z...
SOUNDS LIKE BOMBING.
ZZZZ
ALL SQUADRONS SCRAMBLE!
MOVE OUT ON THE DOUBLE!
BRING YOUR WEAPONS AND ASSEMBLE IN THE MAIN HALL!

WHAT'S GOING ON?
DUNNO..
MAYBE A DRILL?
IDIOT !!
IT'S AN INSUR-RECTION !!
THE MESADANS ARE STORMING THE GATE!!
THEY HIT THE ARMORY NEXT DOOR!
SECURE THE GATE!!
DON'T LET THEM INSIDE !!

MESADANS ?!
CONDA
BLAM BLAM
BRT T
AAAHHH !
SKRAHHH
HOUND TROOPS AND CADETS, PULL BACK!
DEPLOY TO COVER THE REVET-MENTS !
YAAH
ETERNAL PEACE
FIGHT
SA

WHAT THE..?!
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON..?!
BY DAYBREAK ON JULY 1, THE MESADA REBELLION WAS WELL UNDERWAY.
THEY HAD OVERRUN THE ARMED FORCES' HEAD-QUARTERS, SEVERAL BARRACKS, AND THE CENTRAL OFFICES OF THE GOVERNMENT..

TO BE CONTINUED...

The Heroic

WARS

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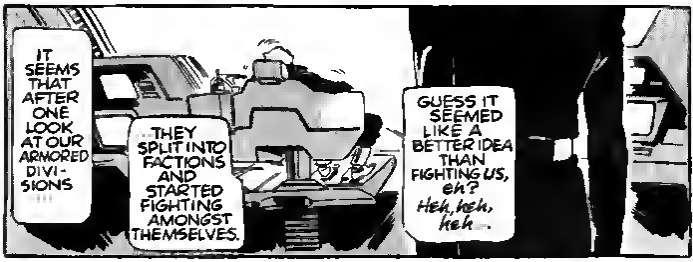
The Vexus WARS

SO, CAPTAIN RADO...

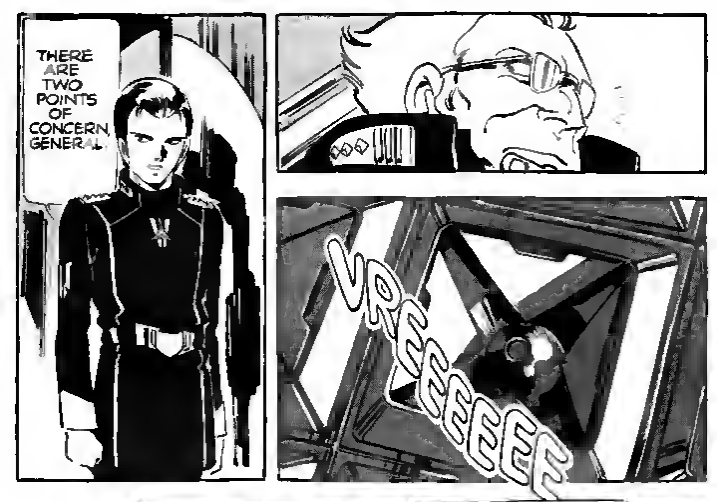
..HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?
IO'S IN A STATE OF COMPLETE CHAOS.


IT SEEMS THAT AFTER ONE LOOK AT OUR ARMORED DIVI-SIONS...!!!
..THEY SPLIT INTO FACTIONS AND STARTED FIGHTING AMONGST THEMSELVES.
GUESS IT SEEMED LIKE A BETTER IDEA THAN FIGHTING US, eh? Heh, heh, heh...

A COUP D'ETAT BY THE FUNDAMENTALISTS, WASN'T IT?
WE WERE AWARE THAT GENERAL AKHBAR WAS PLOTTING SOMETHING
I KNOW HIM QUITE WELL, CAPTAIN
DEEP DOWN, HE'S A COMPLETE RATIONALIST...
NOT THE TYPE TO FOUND A RELIGIOUS SECT
BUT HE'S STUBBORN, AS OLD MEN ARE
IT MAKES THINGS A BIT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US
COGNAC, CAPTAIN?
KWHOOSH
HELP YOURSELF
THIS IS THE REAL THING, DIRECT FROM TERRA
ZOOM

NO THANKS, GENERAL
I HAVE TO GO OUT ON PATROL
Humph
OBVIOUSLY, YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO FULLY APPRECIATE THE VIRTUES OF TERRAN LIQUOR!
WHEN WE TAKE IO, BORONIA WILL BE OURS, TOO THAT'S A REAL PRIZE!
PERFECT ACID/BASE BALANCE IN THE SOIL, JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF SUN WE CAN GROW EXCELLENT WINE GRAPES THERE!
FOOM!

THE FIRST VINTAGE WILL MAKE A FINE MEMOIR FOR OUR CAMPAIGN . . .
KWHOOSH
WON'T IT, GENERAL ?
INDEED
THE MORE MEMORIES, THE BETTER
DEFEATING APHRODIA IS NO MORE DIFFICULT THAN TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY. BUT ONE THING WE CAN'T WIN IS A POPULARITY CONTEST
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO LEAVE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE SPINELESS FOOLS IN OUR GOVERNMENT. AND I AM NOT GOING TO LET AN INCOMPETENT LIKE LEBENDORF TAKE ALL THE CREDIT!
SO THE REAL PROBLEM WILL BE THE POSTWAR MOP-UP
PUTTING ME IN CHARGE OF THE ASSAULT FORCES WAS THEIR MISTAKE .. HEH HEH
I WONDER WHAT IDIOTIC INTELLIGENCE ANALYST TOLD HIS SUPERIORS THAT "GENERAL WALDEMAR HAS NO TASTE FOR POLITICS" ?
THIS CONQUEST WILL GIVE ME A LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION . I CAN'T LOSE


THERE ARE TWO POINTS OF CONCERN, GENERAL.
VRRRRRR

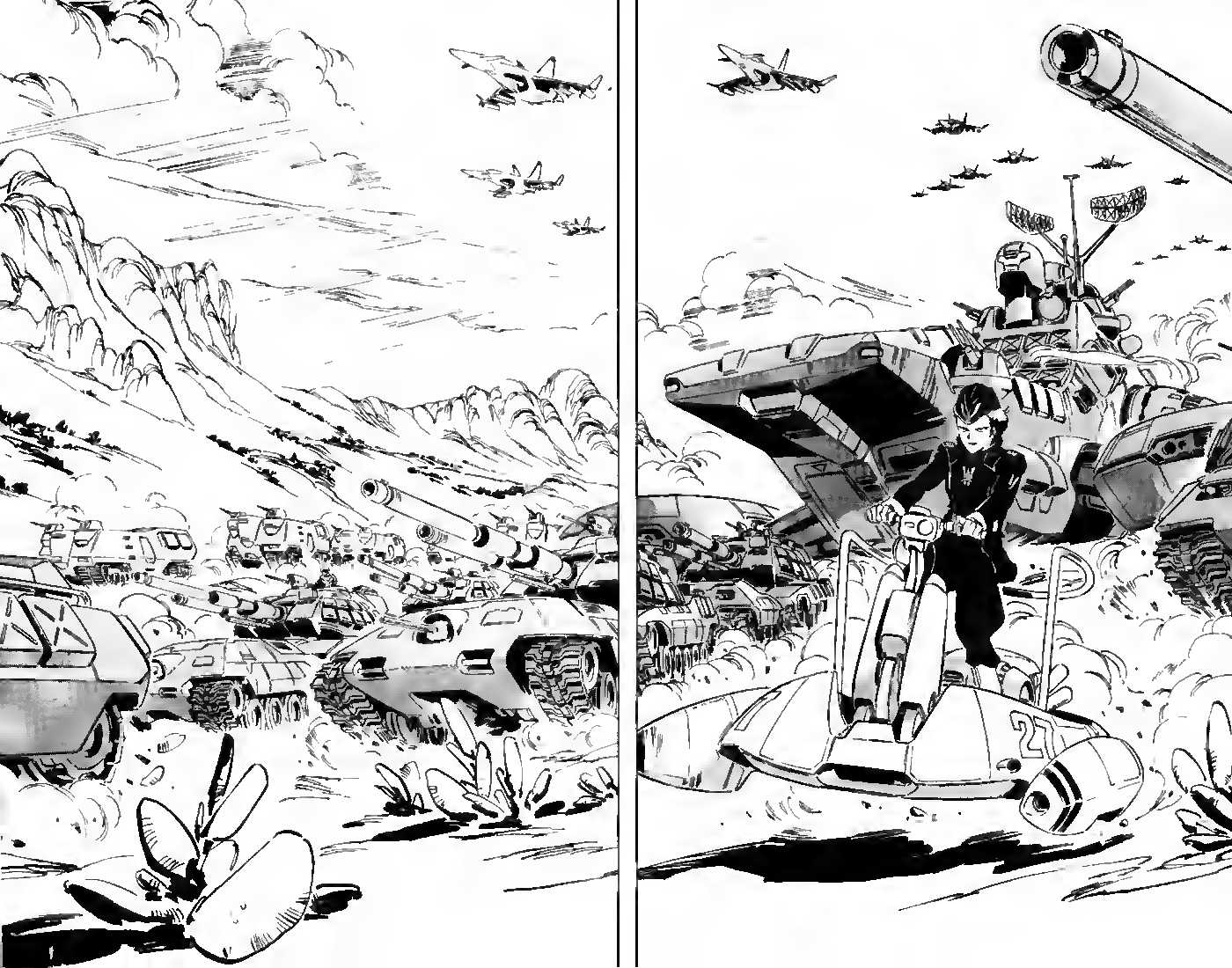
ONE IS DIRECT MILITARY INTERVENTION BY TERRA
AND THE OTHER
--IS THE TWO-WHEELED LIGHT ASSAULT UNITS THE ENEMY HAS THROWN INTO THE IO CAMPAIGN.

IN MY OPINION, THE LATTER ARE BY FAR THE BIGGER PROBLEM. THE APHRODIANS MAY TRY TO AUGMENT THE SUCCESS OF THIS UNIT WITH GUERRILLA TACTICS.
THAT'S ALL THE MORE LIKELY GIVEN THE REVOLUTIONARY/SPIRITUAL BENT OF THE AKHBAR FACTION. IF THAT HAPPENS ...
A LONG, DRAWN-OUT CONFLICT WILL BE UNAVOIDABLE.

WOOSH
CAPTAIN, CAPTAIN
...WHILE YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, YOU SHOULD LEARN TO TAKE A SLIGHTLY BROADER VIEW OF THINGS
THAT MEANS CULTIVATING A SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE ..
I WANT BOLD PROPOSALS, RADO, NOT GRAND-MOTHERLY CONCERN.
THAT'S WHY I MADE YOU MY AIDE DE CAMP, YOUNG FELLOW

"SO, CAPTAIN JUST HOW MIGHT TERRA INTERFERE WITH OUR PLANS?"
"THEIR STRENGTH HERE IS NEGLI-GIBLE, GENERAL
"IF THEY WANT TO DEPLOY A MILITARY FORCE ON VENUS SUPERIOR TO ISHTAR'S
"...IT'LL TAKE THEM AT LEAST TEN YEARS--
"--OF NONSTOP WEAPONS TRANSPORT ACROSS THE FIFTY MILLION MILES BETWEEN TERRA AND HERE
"OBVIOUSLY A HOPELESS PROPOSITION !!"
kchak

RRM
MMA
HEH
ALL MINE
SOMEDAY, THIS ENTIRE DIVISION -
--WILL BE MINE!



WHKOOM

YOU PATHETIC, SNIVELLING GARBAGE!
MAKES ME SICK TO SEE YER FAT FACES!!
DECADENCE AT THE TOP HAS PRODUCED SOFT, WIMPY PUNKS LIKE YOU AT THE BOTTOM!!
NO WONDER EVEN THE HALF-WITS OF ISHTAR SNEER AT YOU!
THE HOUND UNIT, eh?! SPECIAL ELITE TROOPS, HUH?!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!!

YOU LIKE TO RIDE AROUND ON YOUR LITTLE MOTORBIKES, AND WHEN THE ENEMY ATTACKS, YOU'RE THE FIRST TO RUN AWAY!
AM I RIGHT?!
EH?!
.....
DON'T DO IT, KEN ...
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THESE GUYS--
YEAH, I'M TALKING TO YOU, BOY!
YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?!
GIMME YOUR NAME AND RANK!! NOW, SOLDIER!!
HEY YOU!!
ALL RIGHT SCUM!
SIR! MICHAEL JOUVES, SIR!
PRIVATE FIRST-CLASS, SECOND YEAR, SIR!!
I'LL REMEMBER YOU, PRIVATE JOUVES ...
... AS AN EXAMPLE OF A GUTLESS WIMP FIRST-CLASS!

APHRODIA IS RID OF ITS EFFETE OFFICERS AND INCOMPETENT BUREAUCRATS !!
YOUR MASTER IS NOW THE PEOPLE!
IF YOU ARE ORDERED TO DIE FOR YOUR NEW MASTER, THEN YOU WILL DIE!
THAT'S YOUR JOB !!
AS GENERAL AKHBAR SAYS
.."WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS NOT THE POWER OF YOUR WEAPONS, BUT AN UNBENDING SPIRIT"
YAAAHH!!
SHADDUP !!
BKOOM

TH-THAT'S JUST ONE OF OF
ISHTAR'S L-LOUSY LITTLE MISSILES!
THE ENEMY WILL NOT SET ONE FOOT IN THE CAPITAL!
THIS IS A HOLY WAR! AND YOU ARE THE ADVANCE GUARD!
WE SHALL PRE-VAIL!!
DON'T ACT LIKE A BUNCH OF PUSSIES!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT!
FEAR NOTHING!
BE BOLD! COURAGEOUS!
SCARED hmm?

KEN!
.....
!!
W-WELL, HAVEN'T WE GOT SOME GUTS!!
NAME AND RANK!
NOW !!
KEN SENO.
RANK..
NONE.
WHAK

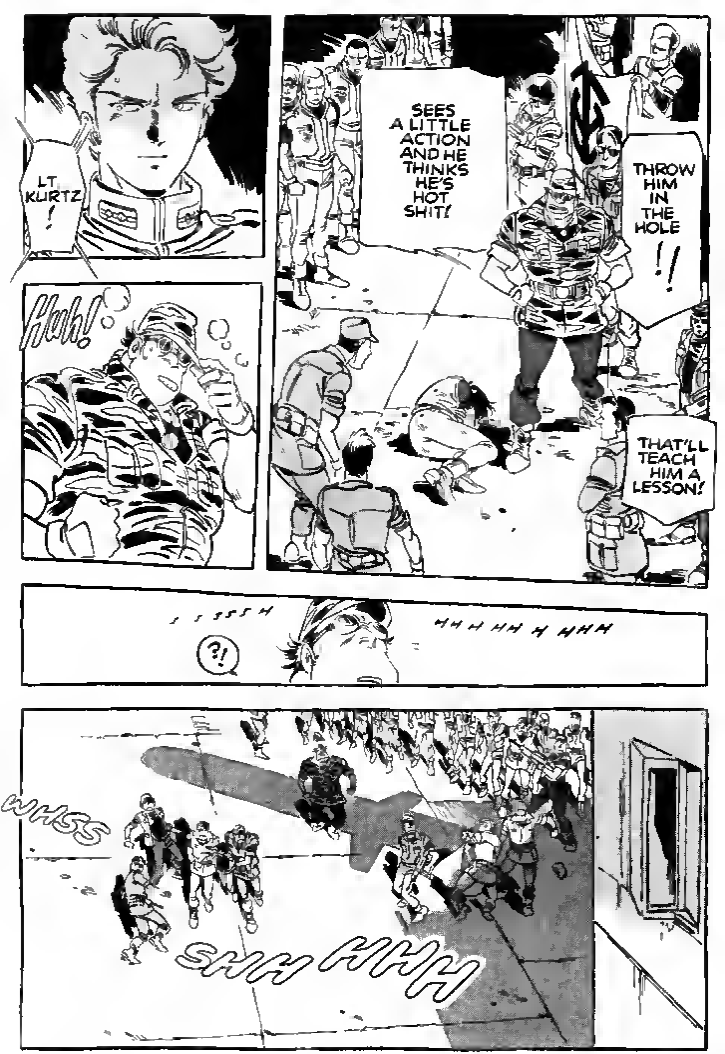
!?
WELL, WELL, WELL!
YOU'RE REALLY DETERMINED TO PISS ME OFF!
BIG TALK, COMING FROM A PIECE OF CRAP LIKE YOU!!
WHO
AAAK

WIMP !
I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THIS--
..FROM A PUNK LIKE YOU !!
.....
.....
.....
huff
huff
HEY, WAIT..

HIM ?!
IT'S TRUE HE'S NOT A REGULAR SOLDIER, BUT...
...IN ONLY SIX ENGAGEMENTS, HE'S TAKEN OUT ONE OCTOPUS.
HEAR THAT ?!
LEMME GO !
EXCUSE ME, BUT..
..I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR CRAP!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE ARMY OR ABOUT YOU MESADA GUYS..
BUT I CAN'T STAND LISTENING--
--TO COWARDS WHO TRY TO TALK TOUGH !

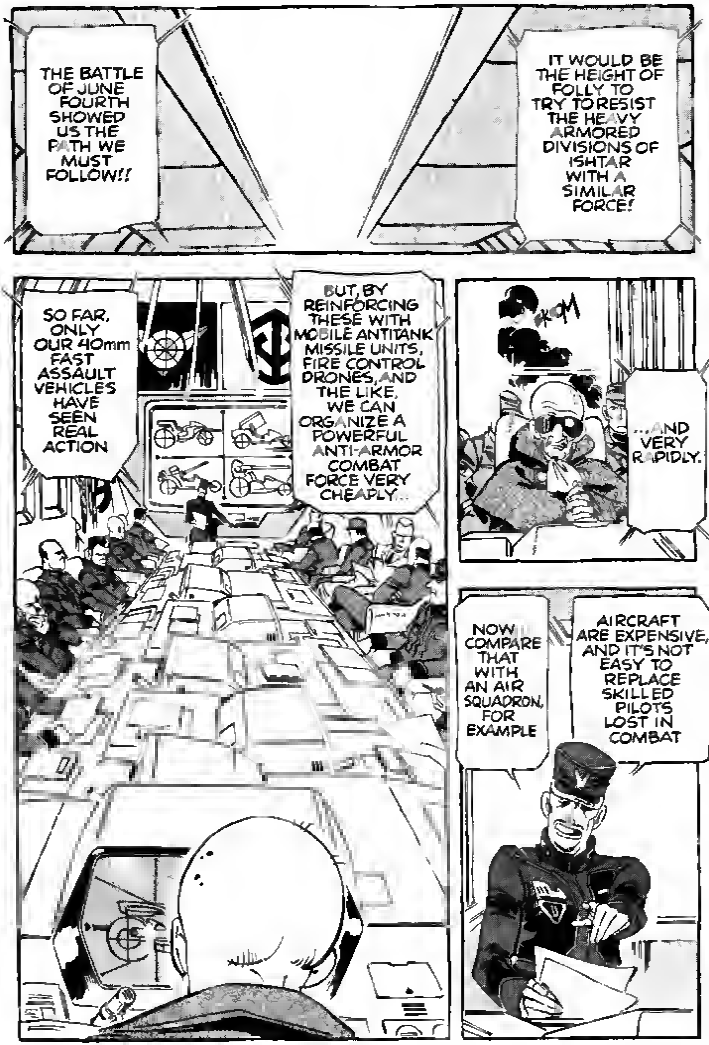
WHAM
CUT THE BULL-SHIT!!
YOUR TYPE HAS IT EASY, WATCHING THE WAR FROM THE SIDE-LINES!
SO DON'T GIVE US REAL SOLDIERS YOUR GARBAGE !!
YOU AND THE REST OF YOUR BUDDIES ARE JUST GETTING IN THE WAY!
LEMME TELL YOU SOMETHING, TOUGH GUY.
YOU TALK ABOUT THE "ELITE HOUND UNIT"...

WELL, ALL YOU BROUGHT US IS A BUNCH OF UNTRAINED PARTY HACKS!
MOST OF THEM HAVE NEVER TOUCHED A BIKE! THEY DON'T NEED SOME STUPID SERMON, THEY NEED TO GO THROUGH SIMULATION TRAINING!
OTHERWISE, WHEN THE TIME COMES, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO--
--PROTECT WEAKLINGS LIKE YOU!
KRAK!
YOU! LITTLE! SHIT!!
WHAK
LIEUTENANT!
LT. KURTZ!
YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
PUNCH


LT. KURTZ!
SEES A LITTLE ACTION AND HE THINKS HE'S HOT SHIT!
THROW HIM IN THE HOLE!!
THAT'LL TEACH HIM A LESSON!
Huh!
?!
WHOSS
SHH HHH

EEYAAHH!!
C-COME BACK HERE!
IDIOTS!!
YAAHH
oh oh
wh--

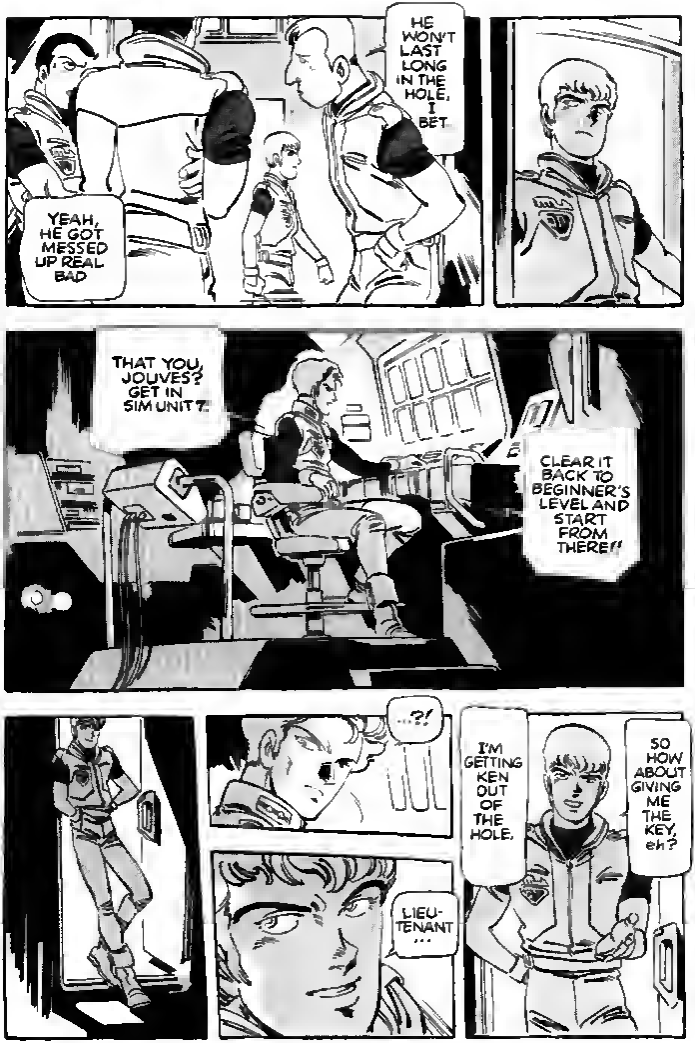
KOOM
D-
DON'T PANIC !!


THE BATTLE OF JUNE FOURTH SHOWED US THE PATH WE MUST FOLLOW!!
IT WOULD BE THE HEIGHT OF FOLLY TO TRY TO RESIST THE HEAVY ARMORED DIVISIONS OF ISHTAR WITH A SIMILAR FORCE!
SO FAR, ONLY OUR 40mm FAST ASSAULT VEHICLES HAVE SEEN REAL ACTION
BUT, BY REINFORCING THESE WITH MOBILE ANTITANK MISSILE UNITS, FIRE CONTROL DRONES, AND THE LIKE, WE CAN ORGANIZE A POWERFUL ANTI-ARMOR COMBAT FORCE VERY CHEAPLY...
...AND VERY RAPIDLY.
NOW COMPARE THAT WITH AN AIR SQUADRON, FOR EXAMPLE
AIRCRAFT ARE EXPENSIVE, AND IT'S NOT EASY TO REPLACE SKILLED PILOTS LOST IN COMBAT

BUT ONE HOUND DRIVER WHO TOOK PART IN THE BATTLE OF JUNE FOURTH HAD ONLY BASIC TRAINING AND TWENTY HOURS OF SIMULATION .
. AND SINGLE-HANDEDLY DESTROYED AN ENEMY TANK !
Hmm
REALLY?
IF ISHTAR'S OBJECTIVE IS TO SEIZE TERRITORY, IT MUST DEPEND ON ITS ARMORED DIVISIONS!
WHAT, THEN, IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF DEALING WITH THEM?!
YOUNG SIMS ...
IT IS "SIMS," IS IT NOT?
?!
WHAT IS YOUR RANK?

WELL, SIR...
I'M A MAJOR, SIR.
Hmm...
WE HAVE THE COMMANDERS OF THREE ARMED FORCES IN ATTENDANCE HERE...
...YET YOU SEEM TO BE THE ONLY ONE WITH ANY INITIATIVE
GENTLEMEN--LET'S MAKE THE HOUND DIVISION AN INDEPENDENT REGIMENT.
NOW, WE MUST GIVE YOU A RANK COMMENSURATE WITH THAT RESPONSIBILITY, eh?
...SIR?
I RETIRED A LONG TIME AGO, MAJOR...
...AND I DON'T RECALL MUCH ABOUT THESE PERSONNEL MATTERS, HOWEVER...
...I THINK WE'LL DO RIGHT BY YOU...
...FOR THE NATION'S SAKE.

BKOOM
HEY, HEY-- DIDJA HEAR?
VRMM
RMB RMB
SIM'S GOT A DOUBLE PROMOTION.
HE MUSTA REALLY KISSED UP TO OLD MAN AKHBAR
VRMMMB
WELL, SIM'S KNOWS HOW TO LOOK AFTER HIMSELF
WOT'A JOKE ...
THIS IS JUST LIKE ONE OF THOSE OLD VIDEO GAME MACHINES.
HEY ...
YEAH, AND HE GETS ALL THE GLORY, TOO, THE BASTARD.
JEEZUS ...
VRM
YOU DONE IN THERE?
I WONDER HOW KEN'S DOING


HE WON'T LAST LONG IN THE HOLE, I BET.
YEAH, HE GOT MESSED UP REAL BAD
THAT YOU, JOUVES? GET IN SIM UNIT 7.
CLEAR IT BACK TO BEGINNER'S LEVEL AND START FROM THERE!!
...?!
I'M GETTING KEN OUT OF THE HOLE.
SO HOW ABOUT GIVING ME THE KEY, eh?
LIEU-TENANT ...

ARE YOU HALF-ASLEEP, PRIVATE JOUVES? START THE SIMULATION !
UNIT 7!
THE GAMES ARE OVER, KURTZ.
YOU DO HAVE THE KEY, DON'T YOU?!
JOUVES ...
DIDN'T I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR ...?
klik
GET IN UNIT 7 NOW!!
Huh?
WHAT'S GOIN' ON ?
HEY THE PROGRAM SHUT DOWN !

WE GOT SOME KINDA MAIN-FRAME PROBLEM?
I DUNNO.. SOME-THING'S UP.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE ORDERING AROUND, PRIVATE!!?
WHAT?!
YOU'RE NOT MY COMMANDING OFFICER ANYMORE!
YOU'RE NOTHING!
IT'S NOT ONLY ME THIS WHOLE UNIT HAS HAD IT
WHAT KIND OF OFFICER ARE YOU ANYWAY, LETTING THAT FAT THUG POUND ON KEN WITHOUT SAYING A WORD?!
YOU WERE SCARED, WEREN'T YOU?!
YOU LET YOURSELF BE HUMILI-ATED--
--BY SOMEONE WITH NO RANK AT ALL!!

I'M A LOUSY SOLDIER, I KNOW IT
SO I LOOKED UP TO YOU ON THE BATTLEFIELD-- AT LEAST, I USED TO!
NO!
GIVE ME THE KEY!
WHOOM
Shangg
WHEN YOU LET HIM OUT, TELL HIM UNIT 4 IS OPEN--
--AND WAITING FOR HIM.

LET'S GO!!
COME ON!
WE'RE GONNA GET HIM!!
YAAAAH!!
OUTTA THE WAY
MOVE IT!!
LEMME THROUGH!
YOU MESSIN' BASTARD!!
WHAT'S IN
WHY, YOU!
S-STOP, I SAY!

A FIGHT, YOU SAY?!
YES, SIR!
BETWEEN MESADA STORM TROOPERS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUND UNIT!!
IT'S NOT CLEAR HOW IT STARTED.. SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE PRISONER, SIR
DAMN!
PUT A STOP TO IT, SERGEANT!
STUPID PUNKS ...!
YAAAAAHHHH

WHOD
SKRASSH
YAAHHH
THOD
WHMP
WHRAKK
FWOD
WHMMP

khik
KRANGG
YO!
KEN!

YAAHOO!

WHOA!
HEY, CUT IT OUT!
HE MAY HAVE BROKEN BONES!
C'MON, GUYS, TAKE IT EASY!
SEE, NOW YA DROPPED 'IM!
DON'T STEP ON HIM!!
KEN!
YOU BEAT HIM!!
YOU BEAT KURTZ!
YOU REALLY GOT HIM!

TO BE CONTINUED...

Area 88

MAKS

8

$2.25 U.S.
$2.75 CAN.

Kazuhiko Shimamoto

BRMMM
BRMMM
BRMMM

WOW!
COOL!

SOLDIERS?!
THEY'RE INSIDE THE COMPOUND FOR R&R?!
FORGET IT!!
TELL THEM TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY! HAVE SECURITY THROW THEM OUT!
BRMMMM
WAY COOL!
HEY, HEY-- OUTTA THE WAY, YOU LITTLE BRATS!
BRMMMM
I'M WARNIN' YOU KIDS-- I'LL CRACK YOU ONE!
HANDS OFF!
AWESOME-- TRIPLE-A UNIT!
YEAH, AND THE LATEST MODEL!
THREE WHEELS, WEIRO!
THAT'S ONE POWERFUL SUCKER...
KABOOM
THEY CREAMED THOSE ISHTAR TANKS!
YOU STAY RIGHT HERE! THOSE THINGS ARE DANGEROUS!
IT'S THOSE HOUND BIKES!!
ARE THEY REAL?! WOW!

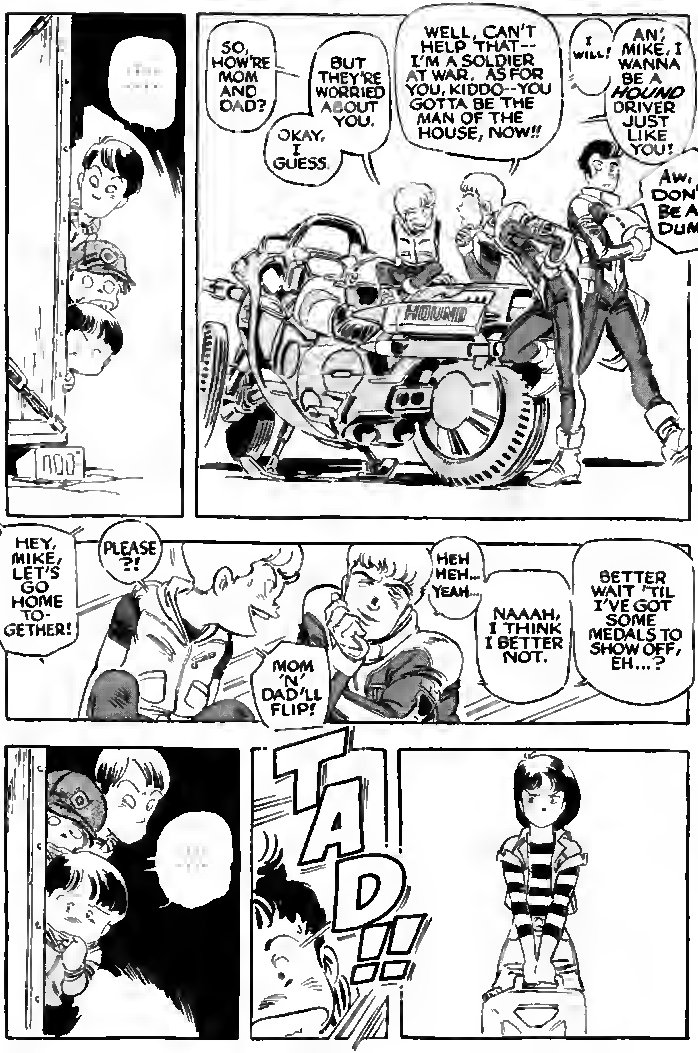
SIR, I'M LT KURTZ...
FIELD COMMANDER OF THE INDEPENDENT MOBILE HOUND REGIMENT.
AT THIS TIME, WE ARE TEMPORARILY REQUISITIONING YOUR FACILITIES FOR THE REST AND RESUPPLY OF OUR TROOPS EN ROUTE TO THE FRONT LINES. NOW, WITH REGARD TO--
FORGET IT!!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, ANYWAY?! THIS IS AN OXYGEN PLANT, UNDER VDB* JURISDICTION!!
AREN'T YOU AWARE THAT ALL VDB FACILITIES ARE NEUTRAL ZONES? AND OXYGEN PLANTS ESPECIALLY ARE OFF-LIMITS!!
YOU SEEM A LITTLE YOUNG TO BE IN CHARGE OF THIS PLANT...
I... I'M IN CHARGE HERE. HE'S JUST HERE ON AN INSPECTION TOUR FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE.
IF THIS FACILITY IS APPROPRIATED FOR MILITARY USE...

* VENUS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

...THERE ARE, ER, OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. CHIEFLY, IT WOULD MAKE US A MILITARY INSTALLATION, GIVING ISHTAR A PRETEXT TO ATTACK US.
AND...
...RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE MANY REFUGEES FROM IO STAYING HERE
SO, IF ANYTHING HAPPENED
MANY INNOCENT CIVILIANS WOULD BE KILLED. YOU UNDERSTAND...?
HEY!
GUESS WHAT?!
MY BIG BROTHER DRIVES A HOUND!!
Coool
HIS NAME'S MIKE!
BET HE'LL LET ME RIDE HIS HOUND!
HEH HEH
GOD DAMN IT!!

I TOLD YOU BLOODY KIDS TO KEEP THE HELL AWAY!!
GET THE PICTURE ?!
ch—?
HUH?
WHA-?!
TONY!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE ?!
VERY WELL, SIR
OUR CARRIERS WILL ARRIVE SOON. WE'LL WITHDRAW AS SOON AS THEY GET HERE

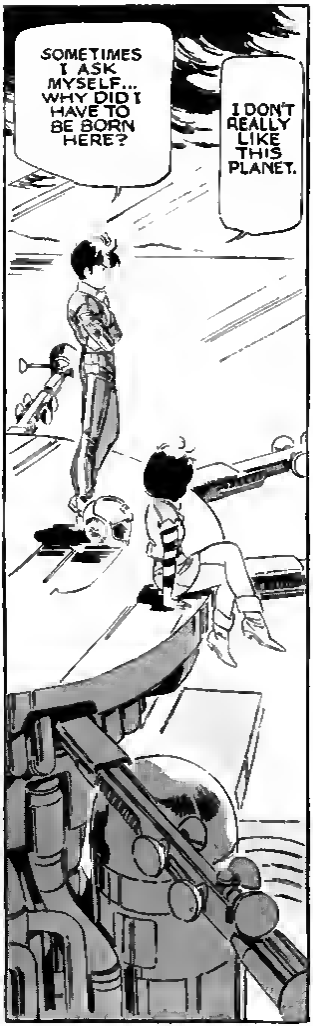
BUT THINK ABOUT THIS, INSPECTOR STEFTER...
DON'T FORGET THAT YOUR "DEVELOPMENT" PROGRAMS DEPEND ON THE STABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT
THE VDB STANDS TO BENEFIT FROM THE COUNTRY'S DEFENSE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE
WHAT THE--
YOU'VE GOT IT COMPLETELY BACKWARDS!
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO ARE RUINING VENUS!
DIRECTOR WATT--!
ARE YOU STUPID?! A CUP OF WATER, A BREATH OF OXYGEN, EVEN A SINGLE LEAF-- THESE ARE IRREPLACEABLE TREASURES HERE!
AND YOU'RE DESTROYING THOSE TREASURES-- AT THE RATE OF HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS OF TONS A DAY!!
WHEN YOU'RE DESTROYING VENUS!
WHAT'S THE USE OF A COUNTRY, A GOVERNMENT...
-UFF-
VENUS WILL BE A DEAD PLANET AGAIN--
--SHROUDED IN CARBON DIOXIDE!!


SO, HOW'RE MOM AND DAD?
BUT THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
OKAY, I GUESS.
WELL, CAN'T HELP THAT-- I'M A SOLDIER AT WAR. AS FOR YOU, KIDDO--YOU GOTTA BE THE MAN OF THE HOUSE, NOW!!
I WILL!
AN', MIKE, I WANNA BE A HOUND DRIVER JUST LIKE YOU!
AW, DON'T BE A DUMMY!
HOUND
HEY, MIKE, LET'S GO HOME TO-GETHER!
PLEASE ?!
MOM 'N' DAD'LL FLIP!
HEH HEH... YEAH...
NAAAH, I THINK I BETTER NOT.
BETTER WAIT 'TIL I'VE GOT SOME MEDALS TO SHOW OFF, EH...?
TAD!!

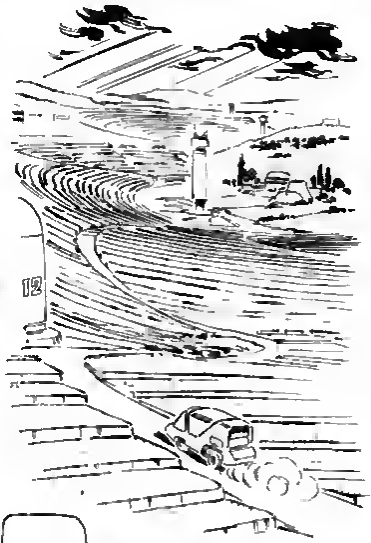
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WELL?!
GET OVER HERE RIGHT NOW AND GIVE ME A HAND!!
WHY DON'T YOU ACT RESPONSIBLE FOR A CHANGE?!
OH, YEAH?! YOU SHOULD TALK!! YOU USED TO RUN AROUND WITH SOME SCUZZY BIKE GANG!!
FOLLFIT!
WHY, YOU LITTLE BRAT!!
MAGGIE...?
....

WHAP WHAP WHAP
Owwww...
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL WHAT FOR!!
YOU HAD ME SO WORRIED...
I WAS huh-HALF CRAZY!
-Sniff-
I I'M SORRY
BUT
IT WASN'T ME WHO CLEANED OUT THE APARTMENT.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE ARMY
Sniff
I MEAN...

I WANTED TO TELL EVERYBODY BEFORE I LEFT.
MIRANDA, ROB, EVERY-BODY...
AND WHAT ABOUT HER ?!
WHO IS SHE?
DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK! ROB TOLD ME!
WHO'S THAT BEAUTIFUL WOMAN YOU RESCUED?!
OH, HER
THAT'S RIGHT..
SHE WAS FROM TERRA, I THINK...
"I I SAW YOU AT THE STADIUM
"YOU... YOU LOOKED REALLY CUTE"
THAT'S ENOUGH!!
I DON'T NEED TO WATCH YOU DAYDREAMING ABOUT HER, TOO!!
ACK!
LEGGO! I'LL FALL!
THAT'S OFF-LIMITS! GET OFFA THERE!!
DANGER
YOU TWO!!
HEY!
YOU HEAR ME?
MOVE IT!!



"THREE THOUSAND ACRES, ALL PLANTED WITH *MURAGI* ALGAE AND PROTEIN FUNGUS"



BUT, EVEN WHEN I WAS LITTLE, NONE OF THAT MEANT ANY-THING TO ME.
I'D PISS OFF MY PARENTS BY PLAYING WITH THEIR PRECIOUS TROPHIES...
OH, YEAH!
LE/WME TELL YOU A STORY I HEARD...
"ON TERRA, THERE'S THIS STUPID BIRD CALLED A DUCK.
DUH?
"THIS DUCK, HE WANTS TO CROSS A RIVER, BUT THE CURRENT'S TOO FAST.
KIND OF LIKE US HERE ON VENUS, DON'T YOU THINK?
"AND HE'S AFRAID TO SWIM ACROSS.
"WELL, YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW WELL THAT WORKS!"
"SO HE STARTS DRINKING THE RIVER WATER...
GLB GLB
KEN, DON'T.

I KNOW IT'S TRUE. LOTS OF THINGS AREN'T RIGHT... THERE'S SO MUCH WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT...
BUT..
I STILL HATE TO HEAR YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT.
IT'S NOT FAIR !!
I WAS HAPPY! HANGING OUT WITH MY FRIENDS...
G-GOING TO THE RACES..
I ruh-REALLY LOVED IT...
...
HEY-
AW..
YOU AREN'T CRY-ING...
...ARE YOU?
OF COURSE I'M NOT CRY-ING!!
B-BUT.
WHY?!
WHY CAN'T YOU BE SATIS-FIED WITH THINGS?!
WHAT WAS WRONG WITH JUST RIDING IN THE GAMES, EVERYBODY HAVING FUN, TOTALLY INTO SOMETHING TO-GETHER?!
ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?!
IT'S BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE NEVER SATISFIED THAT WE HAVE STUPID WARS LIKE THIS ONE!
I CAN'T STAND IT!!
I JUST CAN'T !!

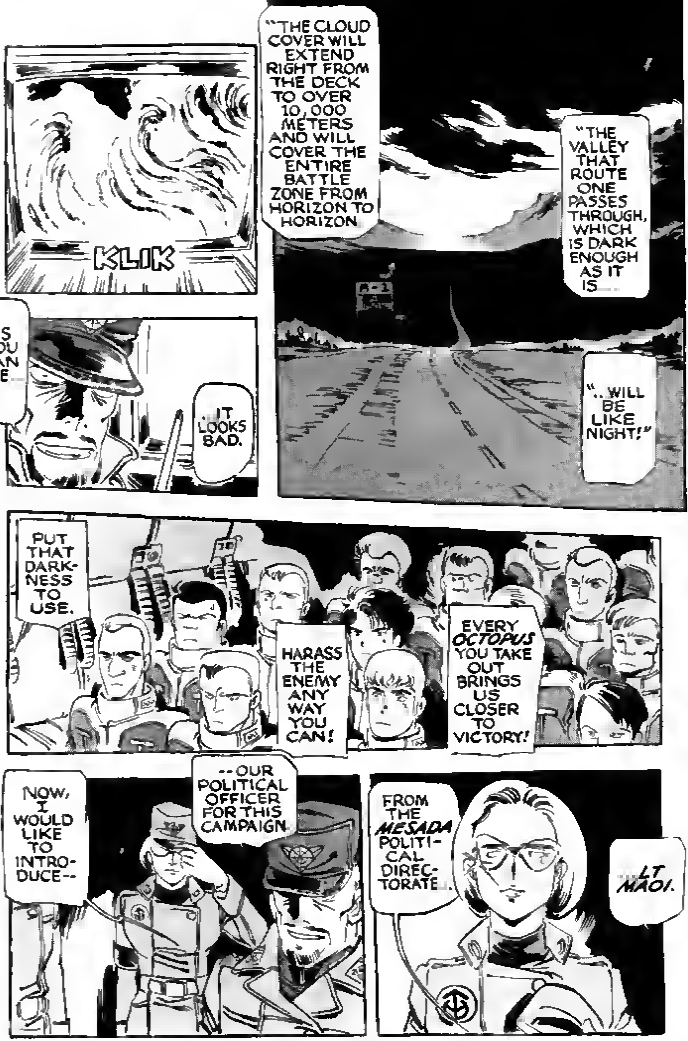
KEN, THIS WAR..
YOU COULD BE KILLED!
OR... OR YOU MIGHT KILL SOME-ONE
I HATE IT!!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
C'MON IT'S OKAY
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU THINK..
WE'RE NOT MURDERERS. OUR ENEMIES ARE STEEL MACHINES.
HEY, YOU!
ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHIN', NECKING UP THERE?!
THE FIRST TIME I SAW ONE OF ISHTAR'S TANKS...
I GOT THE SHAKES
IT WAS HUGE.. UGLY..
"THIS IS IT," I SAID TO MYSELF...
YA GONNA FALL DOWN AN' BREAK YA DAMN NECKS!!

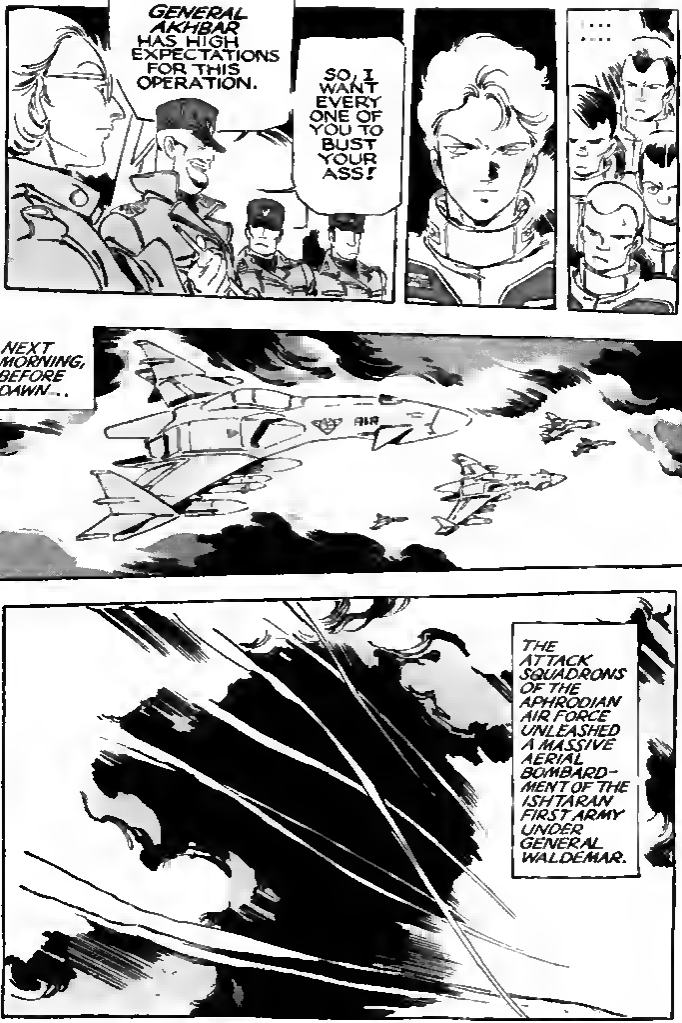
01
02
GRNNGRNN

GRNN
GRNN
GRNN
GRNN

A HUGE LOW-PRESSURE AREA IS MOVING IN...
IT'LL BE HERE TOMOR-ROW!
THAT'S OUR D-DAY!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "PULL OUT WHEN THE CARRIERS ARRIVE"?!
WHO GAVE YOU THE AUTHORITY TO PROMISE THAT?!
AH..
WE ATTACK TOMOR-ROW...
THERE'S NO REASON TO LEAVE!!
BRIEF-ING
IN ONE HOUR!
ALL RIGHT, MEN... IF THERE'S GOING TO BE A WATERLOO IN THIS WAR...
...IT WILL HAPPEN *HERE*, IN OUR NEXT ENGAGEMENT!

COMMANDER WALDEMAR'S MAIN FORCE IS MOVING SOUTH ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF THE TIGETUS RANGE.
HERE!
PIROS
NEW CASSIN
BUT, HIS SECOND ARMY GROUP IS MOVING FASTER--STRAIGHT DOWN ROUTE ONE TO HERE!
AND THAT'S WHERE WE STRIKE!
"THE ENEMY FORCES INTEND TO JOIN UP AT A POINT SOUTH OF NEW ALBERTA BEFORE THEY MARCH ON IO.
"BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LET THAT HAPPEN.
"WE MUST DESTROY EACH ARMY GROUP BY ISOLATING THEM AND HITTI IG THEM WITH THE ULL STRENGTH OF OUR COMBINED FORCES!"
OUR ALLIES WILL BE THE PINDOS RANGE, WHICH FORMS THE BACKBONE OF APHRODIA
R-1
AND THE WEATHER.
PIROS
KSSHHH
DAMN IT, SOLDIER!!
WHERE THE HELL ARE MY WEATHER MAPS?!


KLIK
"THE CLOUD COVER WILL EXTEND RIGHT FROM THE DECK TO OVER 10,000 METERS AND WILL COVER THE ENTIRE BATTLE ZONE FROM HORIZON TO HORIZON.
"THE VALLEY THAT ROUTE ONE PASSES THROUGH, WHICH IS DARK ENOUGH AS IT IS...
"...WILL BE LIKE NIGHT!"
AS YOU CAN SEE...
IT LOOKS BAD.
PUT THAT DARKNESS TO USE.
HARASS THE ENEMY ANY WAY YOU CAN!
EVERY OCTOPUS YOU TAKE OUT BRINGS US CLOSER TO VICTORY!
NOW, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE--
--OUR POLITICAL OFFICER FOR THIS CAMPAIGN.
FROM THE MESADA POLITICAL DIRECTORATE...
LT. MAOI.


GENERAL AKHBAR HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS OPERATION.
SO, I WANT EVERY ONE OF YOU TO BUST YOUR ASS!
!....
!....
NEXT MORNING, BEFORE DAWN...
AIR
THE ATTACK SQUADRONS OF THE APHRODIAN AIR FORCE UNLEASHED A MASSIVE AERIAL BOMBARDMENT OF THE ISHTARAN FIRST ARMY UNDER GENERAL WALDEMAR.

WRAMM
BRT...T.T.T

ROLL THE BARRAGE FORWARD!
FIRE ALL LASER CANNON!
I WANT STRIKES!!
WHAM
WELL ?!
WHO WAS SAYING THAT "THE ENEMY'S AIR FORCE WAS ALL BUT ELIMINATED"...?!

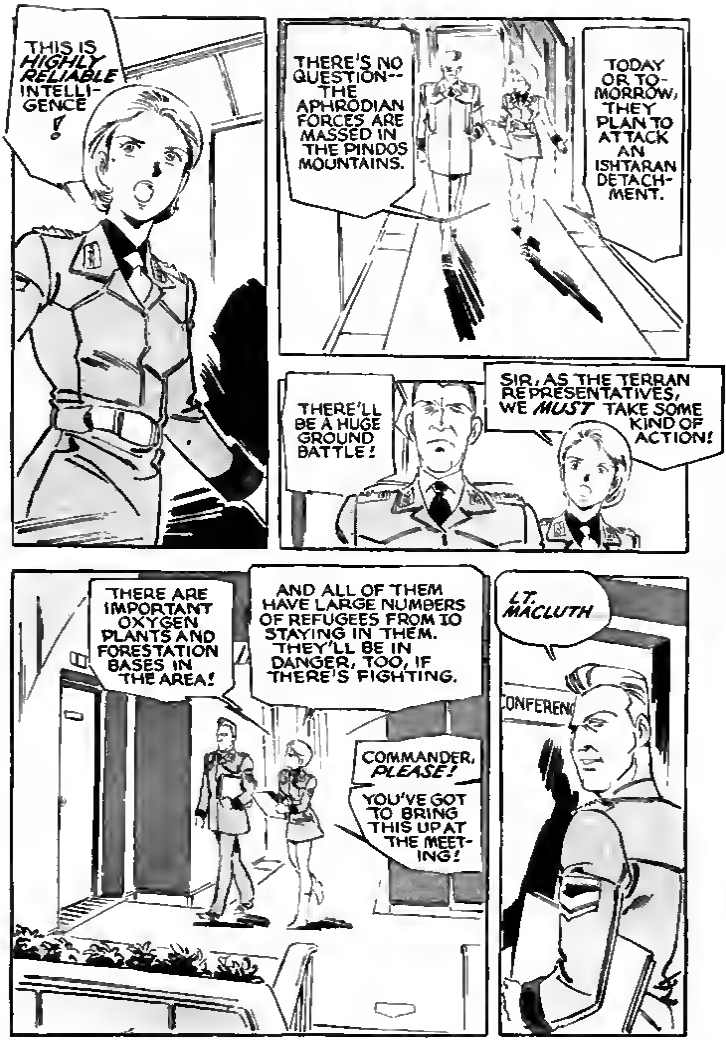
THEY SEEM PRETTY DAMN HEALTHY TO ME!
GIVE ME FALSE REPORTS, WILL YOU?
THAT'S CAUSE FOR COURT-MARTIAL! IDIOTS!!
I SEE!
WHAT'S THAT, CAPTAIN?
A SNEAK ATTACK ON THE SECOND ARMY GROUP?!
BKOOM
YES, SIR.
I SUSPECT THIS USE OF THEIR LIMITED AIR POWER ON US--
--IS JUST A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC
THE BULK OF THE ENEMY FORCE WILL PROBABLY HIT US ON ROUTE ONE!

AND ABANDON THE FRONT AT IO?
THEY COULDN'T.
IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE, SIR...
IF THEIR STRATEGY IS ONE OF SACRIFICE--TO STRIKE BACK EVEN AS THEY ARE DESTROYED!
AN AMATEURISH SCHEME--TYPICAL OF AKHBAR!
HEH...HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH SOMEONE SO FOOLISH?
VREEEEEEEE
VREEEEEEEE

DON'T RUSH-- THE AIR IS STILL ROUGH OUT THERE.
WHEN YOU REACH YOUR POSITIONS, LANO AND WAIT!
12
YOU'LL BE FLYING OVER THE TIGETUS MOUNTAINS..
SO TRY AND KEEP YOUR BUTTS OUT OF THE TREES!
YOU GO OOWN THERE, AND YOU'RE LIKELY TO BE EATEN BY THE LOCAL MONSTERS BEFORE WE CAN SAVE YOUR SORRY ASS!
OH, YEAH?! DEMONS, HUH? I'M SHAKIN'!
BETTER BELIEVE IT, PAL!
WHO CARES?! AS LONG AS WE CAN GET SOME TROPHIES OF OUR OWN!
WITH A MOUNTAIN RANGE BETWEEN US, OUR TWO ARMIES CAN'T COORDI-NATE OPERA-TIONS
THE PLAN WAS TO FURTHER DIVIDE THE ENEMY'S ALREADY MINIMAL FORCES

BUT, NOW THEY'VE OUT-SMARTED US.
I'D HARDLY CALL THAT AMATEUR-ISH!
IN THE WORST CASE ...
OUR OWN FORCES MIGHT MIS-TAKE US FOR THE ENEMY.
YEAH, THAT'S HIM, ALL RIGHT! NOW WE'RE IN FOR IT!
DON'T SCREW UP, GUYS!
HE'LL KICK YOUR ASS!
WHAT TH--
AIN'T THAT CAPTAIN RADO FROM GHQ?!
WELL, FINE THIS WAY WE'LL SEE--
--WHAT-EVER IT IS THEY'VE GOT LEFT UP THEIR SLEEVES.

THAT SAME DAY, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF IO.


THIS IS HIGHLY RELIABLE INTELLI-GENCE!
THERE'S NO QUESTION-- THE APHRODIAN FORCES ARE MASSED IN THE PINDOS MOUNTAINS.
TODAY OR TO-MORROW, THEY PLAN TO ATTACK AN ISHTARAN DETACH-MENT.
THERE'LL BE A HUGE GROUND BATTLE!
SIR, AS THE TERRAN REPRESENTATIVES, WE MUST TAKE SOME KIND OF ACTION!
THERE ARE IMPORTANT OXYGEN PLANTS AND FORESTATION BASES IN THE AREA!
AND ALL OF THEM HAVE LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES FROM IO STAYING IN THEM. THEY'LL BE IN DANGER, TOO, IF THERE'S FIGHTING.
COMMANDER, PLEASE!
YOU'VE GOT TO BRING THIS UP AT THE MEET-ING!
LT. MACLUTH
CONFEREN

...YOU'RE NEW HERE, SO YOUR IMPATIENCE IS UNDER-STANDABLE.
BUT, YOU MUSTN'T LET EMOTIONS CLOUD YOUR JUDGE-MENT.
HOW THE TERRAN MISSION SHOULD RESPOND TO A VENUSIAN WAR IS AN EXTREMELY POLITICAL PROBLEM.
OF COURSE, WE WILL RESPOND WITH APPROPRIATE MEASURES.
"APPRO-PRIATE..
"MEA-SURES" ...
Officer's club
SO THAT'S WHAT THE COMMAND-ER SAID...
...EH?
HRMM
THAT'S PRETTY STRAIGHT TALK, COMING FROM HIM.
"LET 'EM FIGHT" ...HUH.
"LET THEM FIGHT"?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BOY, YOU ARE NAIVE, AREN'T YOU? "APPROPRIATE MEASURES" MEANS "LET THEM FIGHT"
.....
SEE, THE BEST STRATEGY FOR TERRA IS TO LET THE TWO VENUSIAN POWERS SLUG IT OUT TILL THEY'RE EXHAUSTED WE WON'T INTERVENE
TILL THEY'RE EXHAUSTED-- THAT MEANS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WILL DIE!
AND THAT'S ACCEPT-ABLE?!
LT. GUNNAN!
LOAN ME YOUR INSPECTION UNIT TROOPS! I'LL GO TO THE FRONT MYSELF!
YEAH, I GUESS SO.
FROM A POLITICAL STAND-POINT, ANYWAY.
.....
!!

H-HOLD ON A SEC!
THEY'RE NOT MINE TO LOAN YOU! THERE'LL BE HELL TO PAY!
LOOK, BE REASONABLE!
I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY, LIEUTENANT!
BUT IF YOU WON'T HELP ME, FORGET IT!!
I'LL GO BY MYSELF!
KRAHHH
W-WAIT!
COME BACK HERE!! YOU CAN'T!!

TO BE CONTINUED...

DARK HORSE COMICS

The Legacies

WARS

9

25 U.S.
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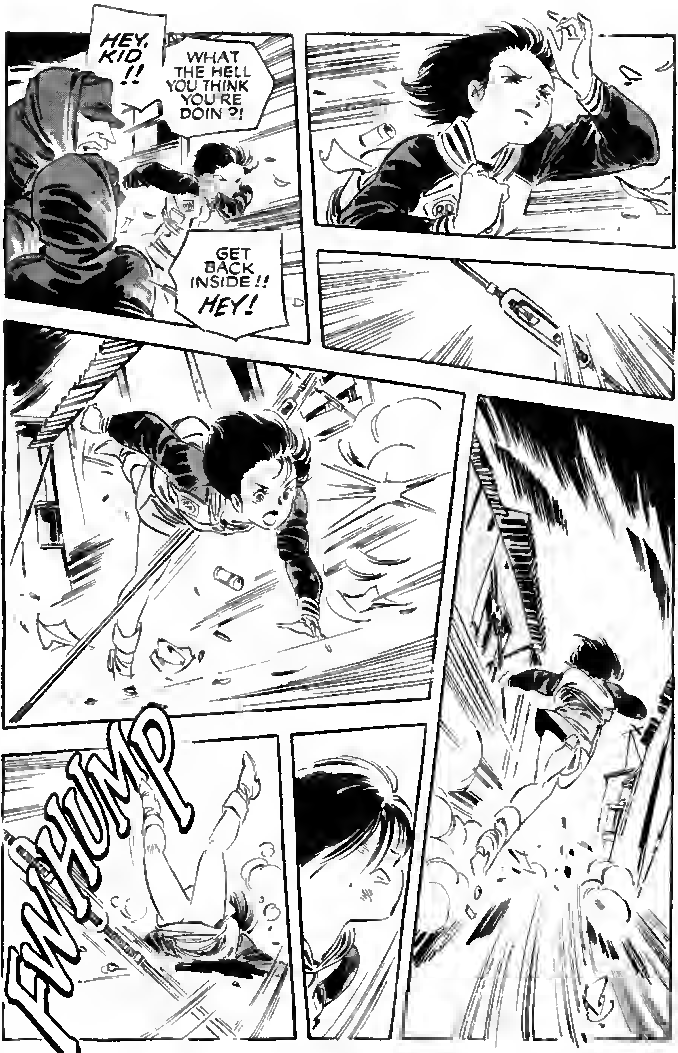
By YOSHIKAZU YASUHIKO

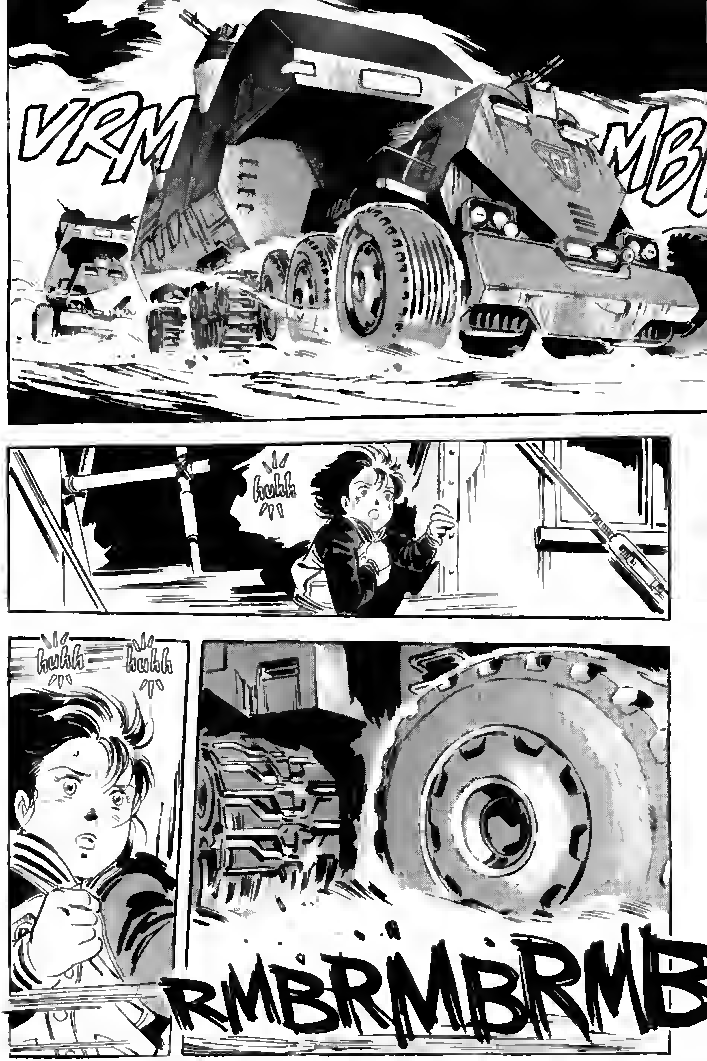
STUDIO MOTHS

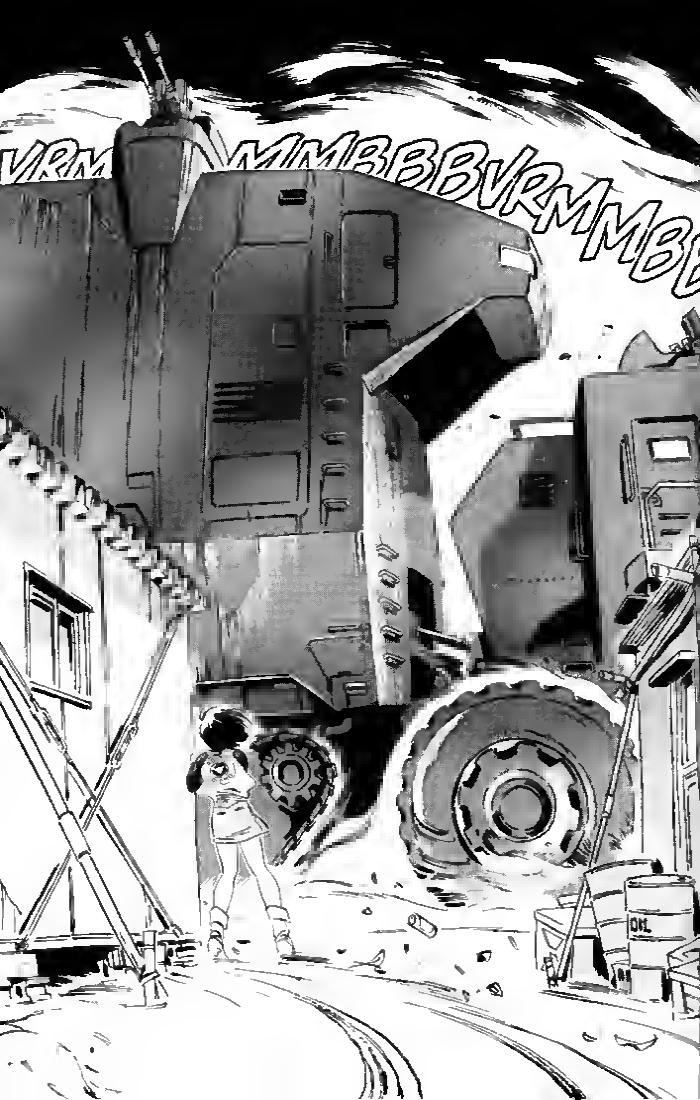
WHSSSHH
KANG
KANG
ONE OF THE SHELTERS HAS BEEN BLOWN DOWN!
THE TENTS ARE GONNA GO NEXT! GET EVERY-ONE OUT OF 'EM!
HEY!! WE NEED A HAND OVER HERE!!
BRACE IT FROM INSIDE!
WAAAAH
WHSSSHH
FORGET IT! THIS ONE'S HOPE-LESS!

WHSSHH
D-DEAR?
DON'T WORRY...
THIS PLACE IS SOLID.
VRMBBB
VRMBBB
VRMMM

MAGGIE!!
WAIT!! WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?!
MAGGIE!! DON'T GO OUT THERE !!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS !!
I HAVE TO, DAD! IT'S IMPORTANT !!
MAGGIEEE!!


HEY, KID !!
WHAT THE HELL YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN ?!
GET BACK INSIDE !!
HEY!
AWUMP

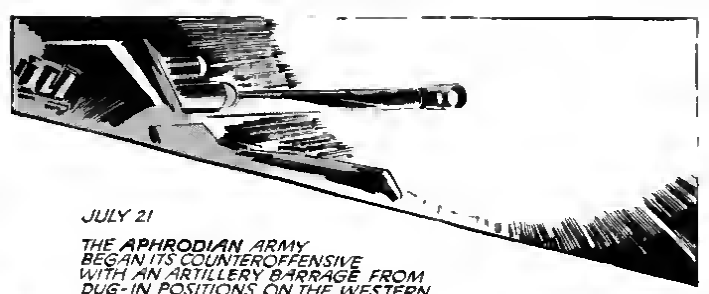

VRM
MB
hrkkh
hrkkh
hrkkh
RMBRMBRMB


VRM
MMBBBVRMMBB
OIL

--YEAH, SHE WAS A REAL CUTIE
heh heh
RMBB
TOLD ME IT WAS HER FIRST TIME, TOO!
AHH THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY
RMBBB
I'M SORRY ...

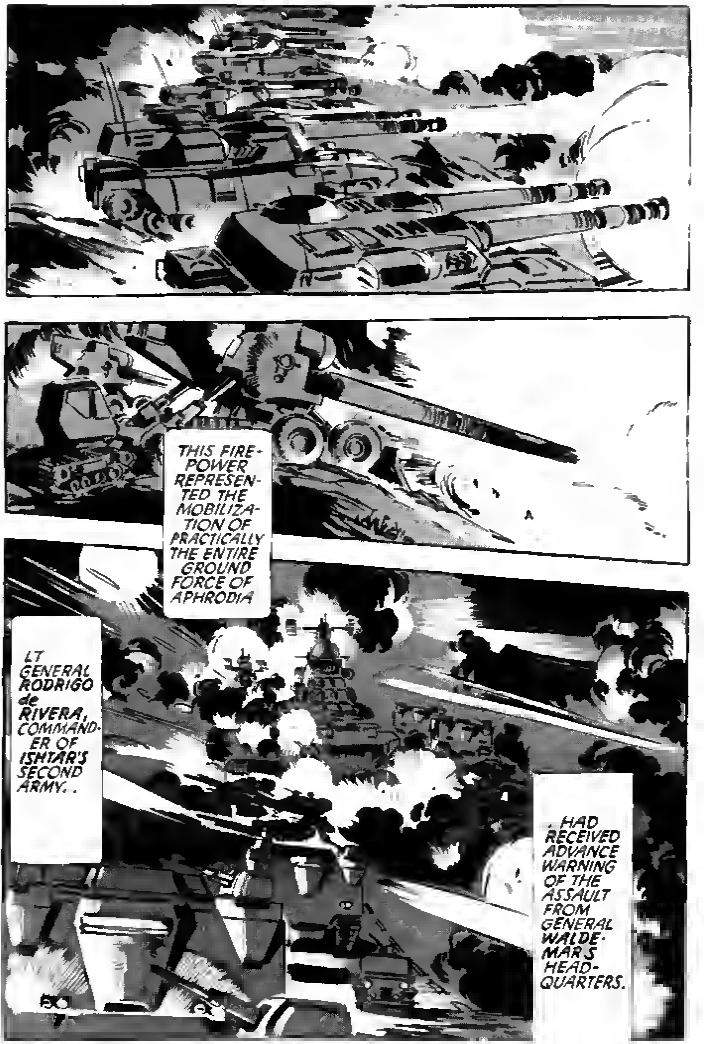
MAGGIE!
IS THAT KEN'S UNIT? HOW DO YOU KNOW? HEY!!
YOU IDIOT!!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US?!

HE'LL BE BACK KNOWING HIM...
...RIGHT?
VRMMBBB



JULY 21

THE **APHRODIAN** ARMY BEGAN ITS COUNTEROFFENSIVE WITH AN ARTILLERY BARRAGE FROM DUG-IN POSITIONS ON THE WESTERN SLOPE OF THE **PINDOS RANGE**.

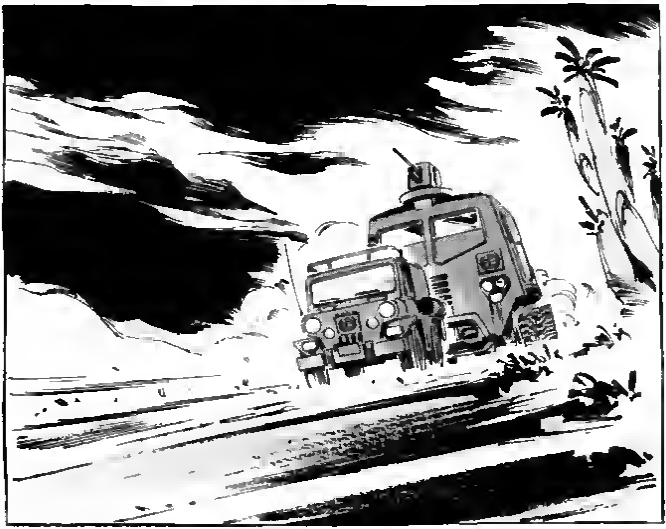

THIS FIRE-POWER REPRESENTED THE MOBILIZATION OF PRACTICALLY THE ENTIRE GROUND FORCE OF APHRODIA
LT GENERAL RODRIGO de RIVERA, COMMANDER OF ISHTAR'S SECOND ARMY..
..HAD RECEIVED ADVANCE WARNING OF THE ASSAULT FROM GENERAL WALDEMAR'S HEADQUARTERS.

HOWEVER THE SCALE OF THE ATTACK WAS FAR BEYOND WHAT THEY HAD ANTICIPATED
ROBBED OF ITS EYES AND EARS BY THE STORMY WEATHER
THE ISHTAR MECHANIZED DIVISIONS WERE TRANSFORMED INTO A GIGANTIC, BLIND CREATURE
PANIC SET IN
AND THE DARK NARROW VALLEY OF ROUTE 1 BECAME A KILLING GROUND
BRMMM

THE DOGS OF WAR WERE LET SLIP
TO RIDE, FANGS BARED INTO THE CHAOS
"TAR GET THE OCTO-PUS TANKS !
"IGNORE THE APCs AND OTHER VEHIC-LES !!"

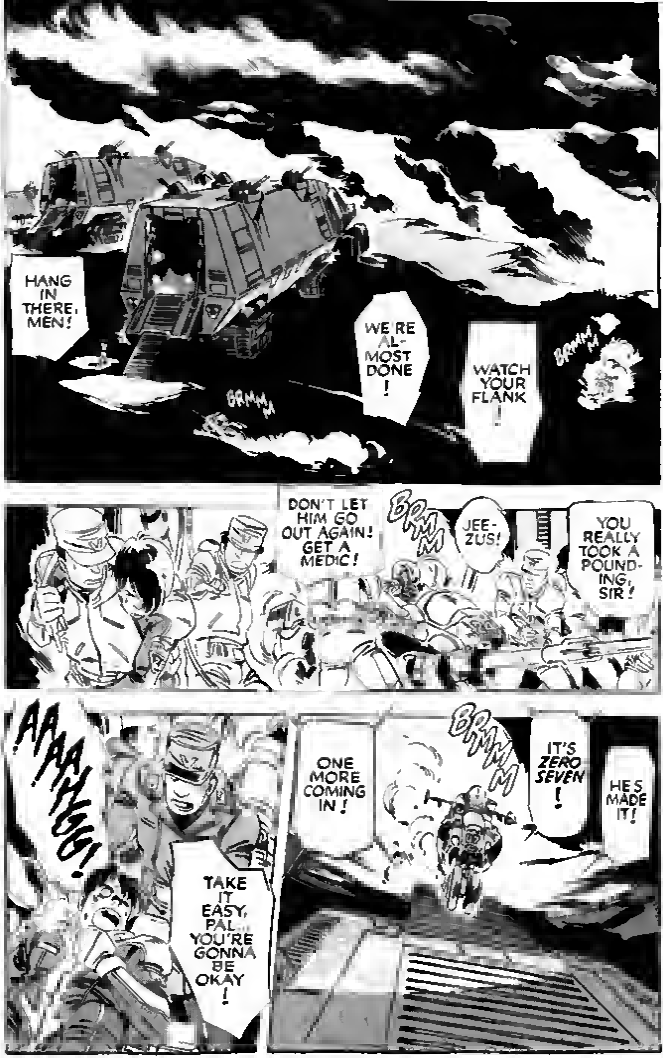
BLAM BLAM BLAM

WHAM
TWO SHELLS LEFT.
ONE MISSILE
ENOUGH FOR AT LEAST ONE MORE!



IT'S BEGUN!

TWENTY KILO-METERS SOUTH OF PIROS.
RIGHT ABOUT WHERE YOU PREDICTED, LIEU-TENANT
TELL ME WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
I MEAN, THEY'VE GOT OVER TWELVE DIVI-SIONS OUT THERE...
SO
Uh...


HANG IN THERE, MEN!
BRMMM
WE'RE ALMOST DONE!
WATCH YOUR FLANK!
BRMMM
DON'T LET HIM GO OUT AGAIN! GET A MEDIC!
BRMM
JEE-ZUS!
YOU REALLY TOOK A POUNDING, SIR!
AAAHUG!
TAKE IT EASY, PAL. YOU'RE GONNA BE OKAY!
ONE MORE COMING IN!
BRMMM
IT'S ZERO SEVEN!
HE'S MADE IT!

RE-LOAD AND RE-FUEL!
QUICK !!
BRMMM
TWO?! NO SHIT?!
AW-RIGHT !
WWW
MIKE !
HEY, THAT WAS FAST !
GET-TING RE-LOAD-ED AL READY ?
AHH ...
...ALL I DID WAS WASTE A BUNCHA AMMO
?

HEY, WHAT'S UP...?
NOT LIKE YOU TO HAVE THAT KIND OF LOOK ON YOUR FACE!
I JUST REALIZED... I GOTTA DO MY PART TOO... Y'KNOW?
?!
AW, I DUNNO...
IT STARTED GETTING TO ME...
KANG KANG
VREEE
I WAS JUST SCREWIN' AROUND WASN'T TAKIN' THIS SERIOUSLY
THEN IT SERIOUSLY HIT ME... PEOPLE COULD DIE BECAUSE OF ME, RIGHT? BETTER GET IT TOGETHER...
BE A MAN.
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
BE A MAN...
OKAY, ZERO-SIX!
READY TO ROLL!!
ALL RIGHT!!
HEY--
WELL, SURE I GUESS... BUT WH--

WAIT!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO--
AFTER I'VE NAILED AN OCTOPUS, WE CAN TALK
WARRIOR TALK!
HOUND
KWAK
OKAY, ISHTAR!
TIME TO SHOW WHAT THE ZERO BRIGADE CAN DO!!
RIGHT!
BRMMM

BRRMMM
HOUND
ZERO-SEVEN!
WE'RE DONE RE-LOADING!
YOU READY?!

WHERE IS IT?
WHERE IS MY PREY ?!
BKOOM
THERE!
BRMM

06
BRRMMMMMM
ZERO-SIX, huh
heh heh
MIKE ISN'T IT...?
?!

V-TOLs ?!
DAMN IT!!

GOT ME A TALLY HO, CENTRAL !
WHOLE BUNCH A MICE !
OKAY, TONY !
WATCH THIS !!
BRTTT

HOUND
HO--
HOLY SHIT !!
BRMMM
BRRR

BKOOM
06

TO BE CONTINUED

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WARS
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YOSHIKAZU YASUHIKO

The Venus WARS

12
12
BKOOM

WHOOSH

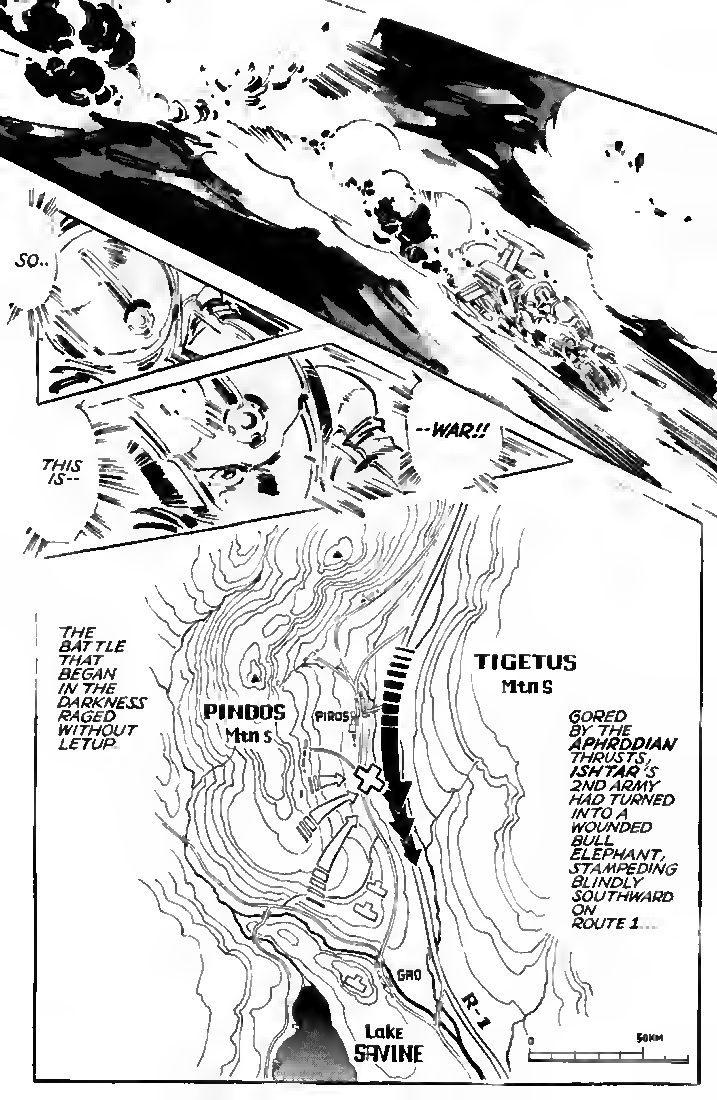
* VERTICAL TAKE OFF AND LANDING

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!!
GUN-SHIPS!?
TAKE COVER!!
WRAM
BRTTTT
BKOOM

YAAAHHHH!!

BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
THE CARRIERS ARE HIT!!
ALL OF 'EM!?!

WHOOM


SO..
--WAR!!
THIS IS--
THE BATTLE THAT BEGAN IN THE DARKNESS RAGED WITHOUT LETUP.
PINDOS Mtn S
PIROS
TIGETUS Mtn S
GORED BY THE APHRODDIAN THRUSTS, ISHTAR'S 2ND ARMY HAD TURNED INTO A WOUNDED BULL ELEPHANT, STAMPEDING BLINDLY SOUTHWARD ON ROUTE 1....
GRO
R-1
Lake SAVINE
0
50KM

HEAVY LOSSES COMBINED WITH A BREAK-DOWN IN COMMAND AND CONTROL...
...HAD DEPRIVED THE ISHTARIAN FORCES OF THEIR COORDI-NATION AS A MILITARY UNIT.
BUT...
THE APHRO-DIANS, TOO, HAD BEEN SAVAGE-LY MAULED
IN DISARRAY, THEIR TROOPS WITHDREW AROUND LAKE SAVINE...
GAO
R-1
WATER HILL
Lake SAVINE
...WHILE THE MORTALLY WOUNDED 2ND ARMY STAG-GERED TOWARDS GAO.
VBD OXYGEN PLANTS

TWO-FOUR GOT IT... Y'KNOW, JONAH.
BPMMMM
YEAH, I HEARD.
WHAT ABOUT OKADA?
BRMM
ONE-SIX?
BRMMM
HIM, TOO- DIDN'T YOU KNOW?!
YEAH... HE PICKED UP SOME SHRAPNEL AND CAME BACK IN.
BOUGHT IT WHEN THEY BLEW THE CARRIER
VRMMM
BRMM
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ZERO-SIX?
MIKE JOUVES, RIGHT?
VRMMM
BRMM
HIM TOO, HUH..
WHY?!
WHAT FOR?!

YOU.. YOU COWARDS!
WHY ARE YOU RETREATING?!
YOU SHOULD BE USING ALL YOUR REMAINING STRENGTH TO HALT THE ENEMY'S ADVANCE!
VRMMM
I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE COURSE AND HEAD WEST TO INTERCEPT THEM!
WE HAVE FRIENDLY FORCES GATHERED IN GAO!
YOU MUST--
OUR SUPPLIES WON'T LAST, MISS MAOI.
NOT WITH JUST ONE CARRIER LEFT.
THAT'S NOT ALL...
IS RESUPPLY THE ONLY PROBLEM?
THEN LET ME SPEAK TO HEADQUARTERS-- I'LL GET YOU WHATEVER YOU NEED!!

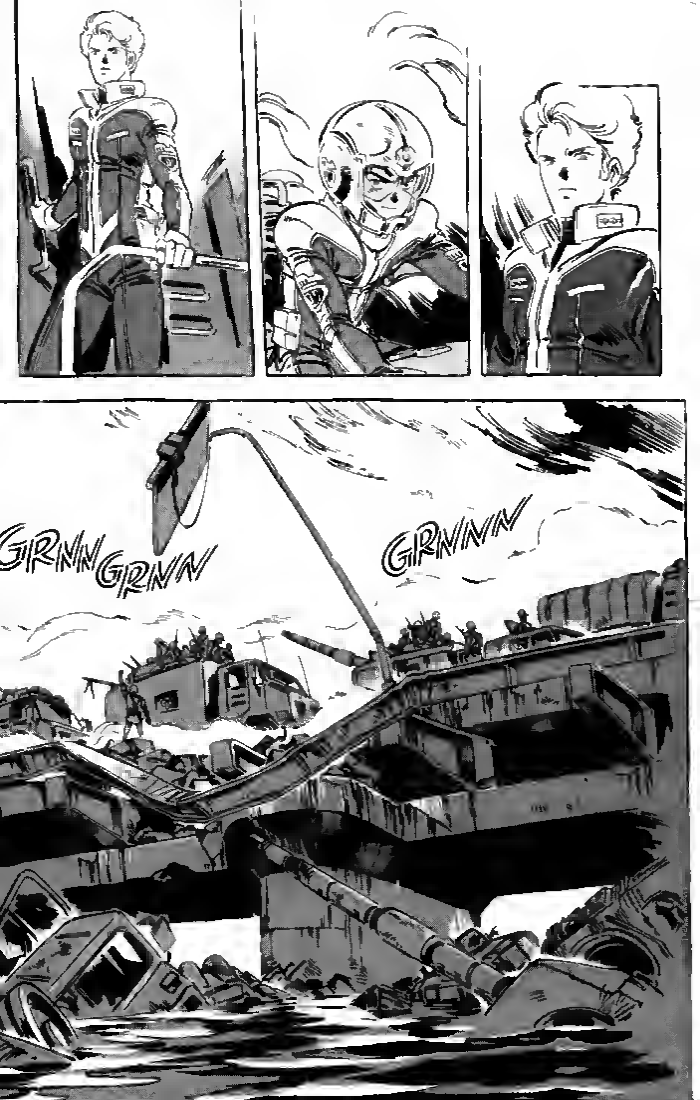
THIS BATTALION MOBILIZED WITH ONLY 36 "A" TYPE HOUND TANK KILLERS--AND OVER HALF HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED.
WE DON'T HAVE TEN LEFT THAT ARE CAPABLE OF COMBAT
LISTEN, COLONEL
LET ME REMIND YOU OF SOMETHING!
WE'RE NOT KAMIKAZES, MISS MAOI.
IF I RECALL, THIS IS WHAT YOU SAID--
"THE HOUND WILL BE THE ULTIMATE CHEAP AND EFFECTIVE LIGHT ATTACK FORCE AGAINST HEAVY MOBILE UNITS!"
--TO FATHER AKHBAR AT THE SUPREME COUNCIL'
SO...
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE HOW MANY WE LOSE?

LOOK, MISS MAO! -- I REALIZE THAT THE POLITICAL DIRECTORATE EXPECTS RESULTS...
...BUT YOU'VE GOT TO REALIZE THAT "CHEAP" IS A RELATIVE TERM.
THERE'S NO POINT IN THROWING AWAY THE OPERATIONAL HOUNDS TRYING TO DEFEND GAO.
WE MUST--
GO AHEAD AND TRY, MISS MAO!!
SHOW ME HOW YOU'LL MAKE THESE MEN DIE WILLINGLY WHEN THEY KNOW THEY'RE CANNON FODDER FOR YOUR IDEOLOGICAL BULLSHIT !!
KRANG
ENOUGH !!
BANG

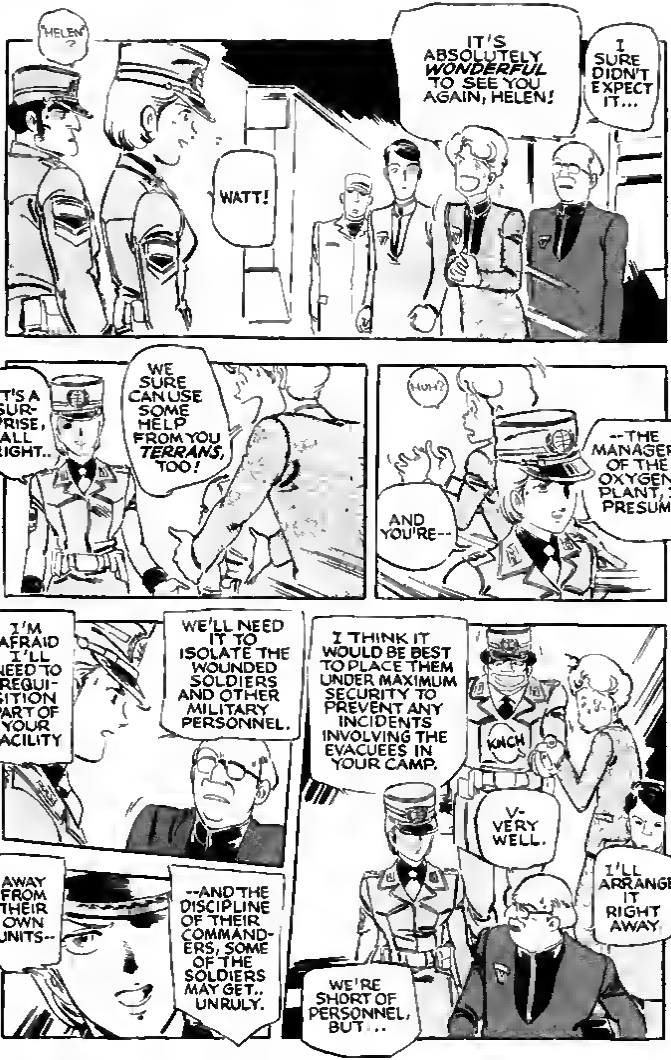
YOU GODDAMN MORONS ARE GONNA MAKE THIS BRIDGE COLLAPSE!
MOVE IT!!
BACK OFF, JERK!
HEY! LET THE TRUCKS WITH WOUNDED GO ON AHEAD!!
GET THE TANKS AND CANNON TO THE REAR!
SCREW YOU!
COME ON, LET'S GET THESE GUYS TO A HOSPITAL, OKAY?
WHAT'S THE GODDAMN PROBLEM UP THERE?!
LIEUTEN-ANT KURTZ...

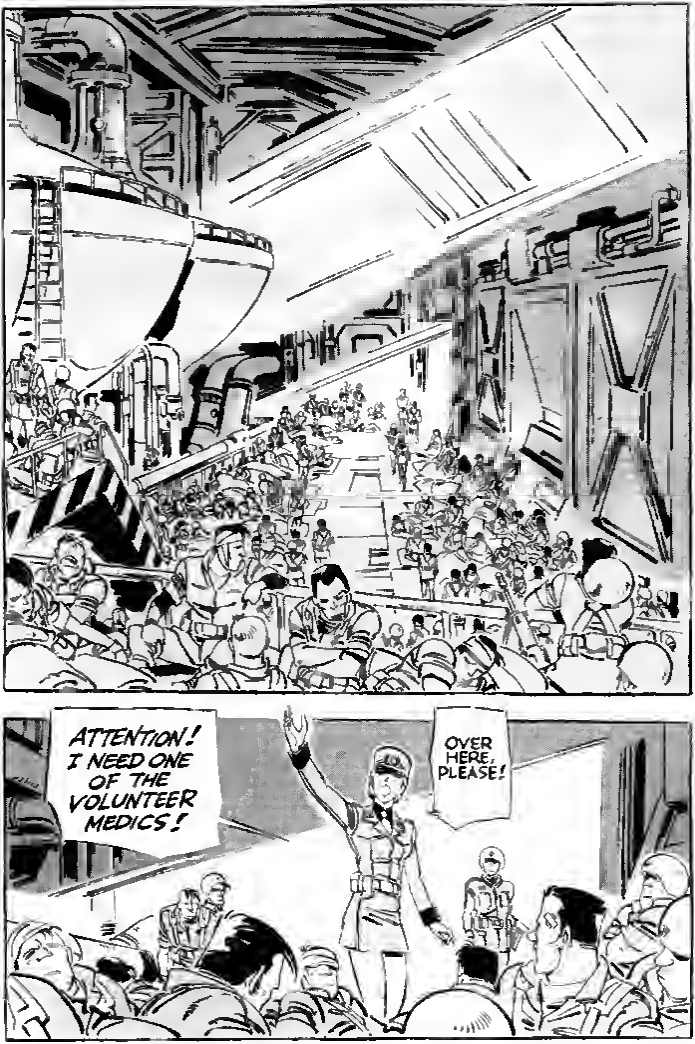
I WANT TO SEE YOU IN MY OFFICE AFTER THIS UNDER-STAND?
NO WAY..!
IT'S TRUE, MAN.
KURTZ LET HIM DIE.
HE COULD'A WARNED HIM ABOUT THOSE ATTACK V-TOLs
BUT HE DIDN'T
BET IT'S 'CAUSE OF THAT SHIT THAT WENT DOWN BETWEEN HIM 'N' MIKE
BRMMM
BRMMM
BRMMM

SKREE
WHEWW...


GRNNGRNN
GRNNN

SKREEK
LOOKS BAD...
ALL THESE WOUNDED TROOPS POURING IN FROM THE FRONT...
ALL RIGHT, MEN--
IT DEFINITELY DOES NOT LOOK GOOD.
TEN-SHUN!!
HELEN!


HELEN?
WATT!
IT'S ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN, HELEN!
I SURE DIDN'T EXPECT IT...
IT'S A SURPRISE, ALL RIGHT..
WE SURE CAN USE SOME HELP FROM YOU TERRANS, TOO!
HUH?
--THE MANAGER OF THE OXYGEN PLANT, I PRESUME?
AND YOU'RE--
I'M AFRAID I'LL NEED TO REQUISITION PART OF YOUR FACILITY
WE'LL NEED IT TO ISOLATE THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS AND OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL.
I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST TO PLACE THEM UNDER MAXIMUM SECURITY TO PREVENT ANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE EVACUEES IN YOUR CAMP.
KNCH
V-VERY WELL.
I'LL ARRANGE IT RIGHT AWAY
AWAY FROM THEIR OWN UNITS--
--AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THEIR COMMANDERS, SOME OF THE SOLDIERS MAY GET.. UNRULY.
WE'RE SHORT OF PERSONNEL, BUT...


ATTENTION! I NEED ONE OF THE VOLUNTEER MEDICS!
OVER HERE, PLEASE!

COMING, MA'AM!
NICE INFECTED LACERATION, HERE...
WASH IT THOROUGHLY WITH DISINFECTANT, THEN DRESS WITH SILVADINE.
KILLER
HUMANOIDS
HUH..
AIN'T SHE NOBLE..!
A GOOD LITTLE GIRL FROM TERRA, EH?
WHAT A CROCK..
HEH, HEH...
NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN BITCH, SOLDIER?!
THEN GET OUT OF HERE!!
GO BACK TO THE FRONT...
...OR OUT INTO THE STORM!!

MAKE NO MISTAKE-- I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU, PERSONALLY!
YOU CAN LIVE OR DIE FOR ALL I CARE! BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GO ON LIVING...
...HERE, AND ALL OVER VENUS!!
AND I INTEND TO HELP THEM, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!!
THE DUTY OF A SOLDIER IS TO DIE TO PROTECT HIS COUNTRY AND ITS CITIZENS!
ARE YOU PREPARED TO DIE, SOLDIER?
...

THAT WAS SO COOL!
WOW!
HUH? DID YA?
ISN'T SHE GREAT!?!
DID YA SEE THAT?!
HEY!!
HANDS @FF, BUDDY!!
IF YOU'RE GONNA BEHAVE LIKE THAT, YOU CAN JUST GET OUT!! I DON'T HAVE TO--
EHEH
EEEK!
H-HELP!!
KRAK
SOME-BODY HELP!!

KANG
WHDD
GOOMPH
LISTEN UP, ASS-HOLES!!
YOU MESS WITH THE VOLUN-TEERS--
SHE'S A VOLUN-TEER...?
--AND YOU'RE GONNA BE REEEAL SORRY!
GOT IT?!
WOTTA BABE..
MAGGIE!!
LET ME TAKE CARE OF THESE SCUMBAGS-- YOU GO HELP OUT IN THE KITCHEN!
O-OKAY..

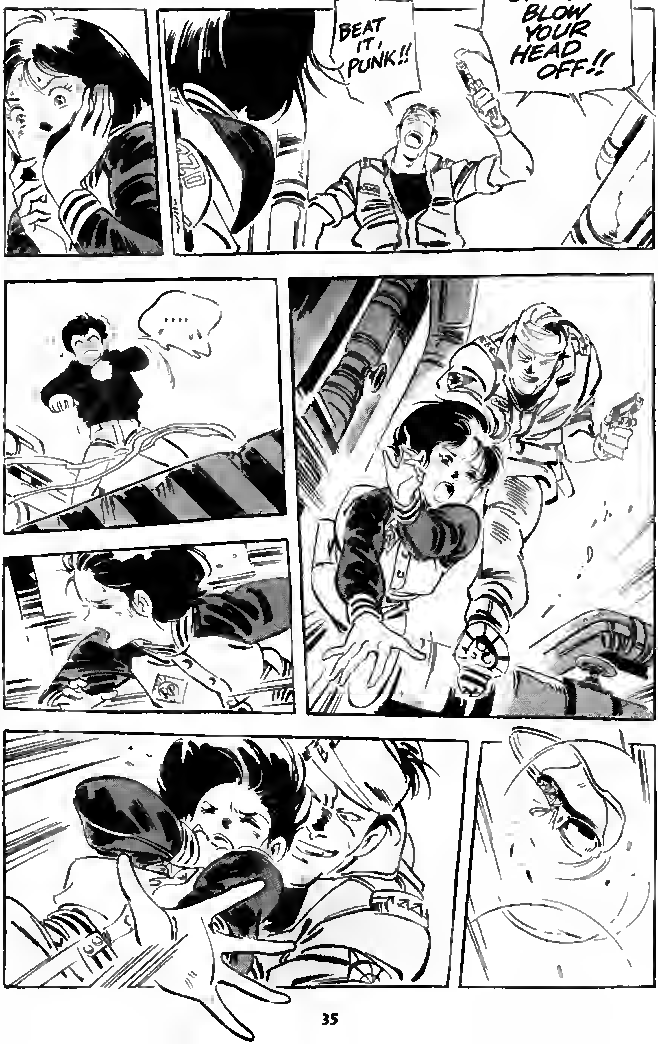
No.10
MORNING, MAGGIE!
GOOD MORNING!
AH, GREAT TIMING!
CAN YOU RUN THIS OVER TO THE KITCHEN IN BACK?
THEY CAN'T SPARE ANYONE TO COME AND GET IT.
THANK YOU, DEAR!
?!

H-HEY!! WHA--
WMPH
LOOK!
SEE THAT?
I'M AN OFFICER --A CAP-TAIN!
I'M A BIG SHOT, HONEY!
SO, LIKE IT OR NOT..
WE'RE GONNA HAVE US A LITTLE FUN...
NO!
NOOOO!!

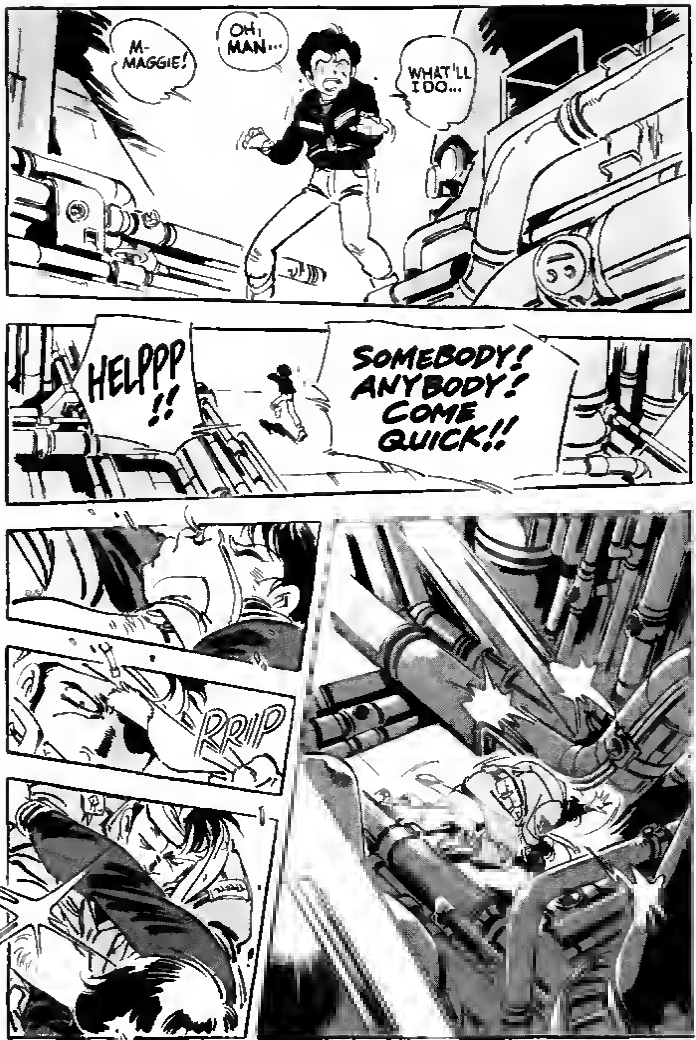
SHIT!

huhh
hahh
hahh
ha!ha!ha
huhh
hahh
KANG
HUNFF...

N-NO..
PLEASE...
CRUNCH
WHA-?! HEY, IS THAT YOU, MAGGIE?!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON DOWN THERE?!
PLEASE... NO.
ROB !!
HELP ME!!
WHAT'S WRONG ?!
HEY YOU! GET AWAY FROM HER!!
SPANNG


BEAT IT, PUNK!!
OR I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF!!
.....

EH HEH..
HMPH


M-MAGGIE!
OH, MAN...
WHAT'LL I DO...
HELPPP!!
SOMEBODY! ANYBODY! COME QUICK!!
RRIP

KENNN!!
RRIP
THAT'S ENOUGH!
HOLD IT!!
GET AWAY FROM HER!!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
WHAT KINDA UNIFORM--
LET HER GO!
NOW !!
YOU GONNA SHOOT ME? HUH?
ME?!
HUH...
YOU GONNA SHOOT AN OFFICER ?!
WELL, PUNK?
LET HER GO!!

KABLAAAAMMM
TO BE CONTINUED..

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The Heroic WARS

11

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By YOSHIKAZU YASUHIKO

STUDIO MAIOLO

The Venus WARS

SEND HIM OUT !!
WE'LL FIX THE BASTARD !!
LET'S DRAG HIM OUTTA THERE !!

SO YOU WANNA PICK A FIGHT--
--WITH THE 325th ?!?
WELL, AIN'T THAT SWEET!
WE'RE READY ANYTIME YOU ARE!
COME ON...
..YOU HOUND BASTARDS !!
SUCKING UP TO THE TERRAN DIRT-BAGS, huh !?!
OOH, KISSY KISSY!!
ALL RIGHT, COLONEL !!
HAND HIM OVER IMMEDIATELY!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR CRAP!
WHO TOLD THE HOUNDS TO PLAY M.P. ?!

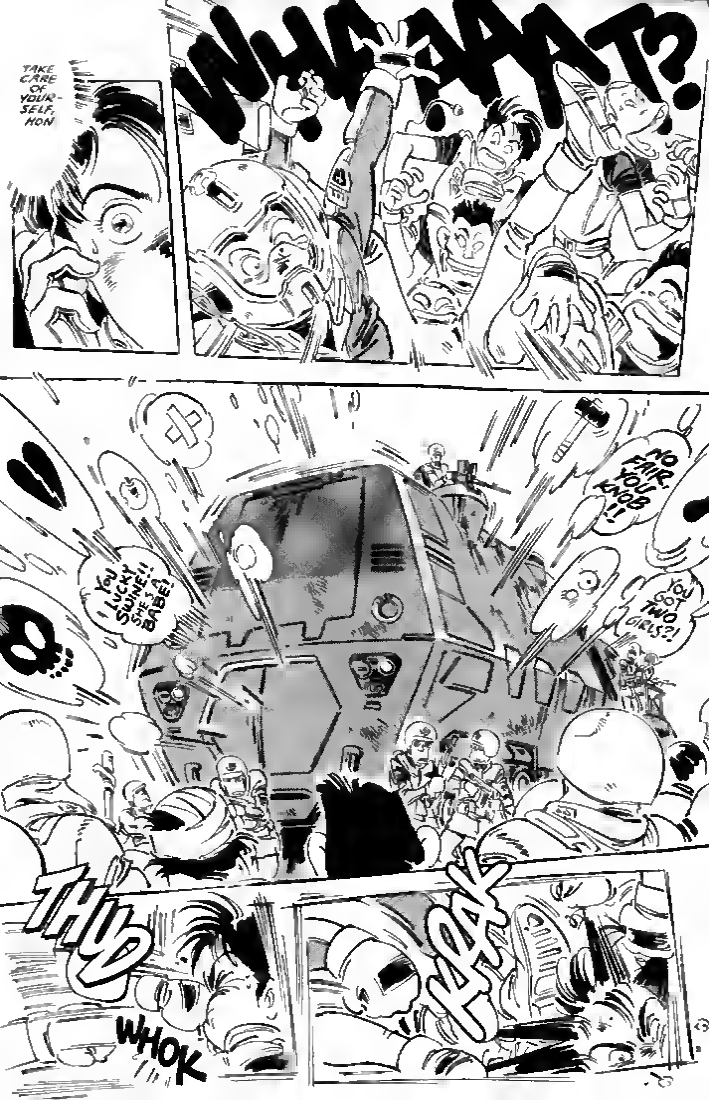
LOOKS TO ME LIKE EVER SINCE YOU GUYS GOT "SPECIAL UNIT" STATUS FROM AKHBAR ...
YOU GOT A SEVERE ATTI-TUDE PROB-LEM !
IT DON'T MAKE ANY DIFFER-ENCE WHAT THAT OFFICER WAS DOING TO A CIVILIAN
IT'S NOT THE PLACE OF SOME DAMN GRUNT TO SHOOT HIM !
MILITARY CODE SECTION 378 HOMICIDE OF A SUPERIOR OFFICER! THE PUNISHMENT IS DEATH!!
.....
I'M AFRAID NOT
HE'S NOT AN ENLISTED MAN
HE'S WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A VOLUNTEER SOLDIER - HE HAS NO MILITARY RANK, AND THEREFORE
THIS INCIDENT DOES NOT FALL UNDER MILITARY JURIS-DICTION
IT'S AN ORDINARY CRIMINAL CASE. TO BE TRIED IN CIVILIAN COURT

WHAT!?!
"VOLUNTEER SOLDIER"?!
WHAT BULLSHIT!
I NEVER HEARD OF--
COLONEL SIMS!!
THE LIEUTENANT IS CORRECT
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
AIEEE!
!!
KEN SENO
--IS A CIVILIAN, NOTHING MORE

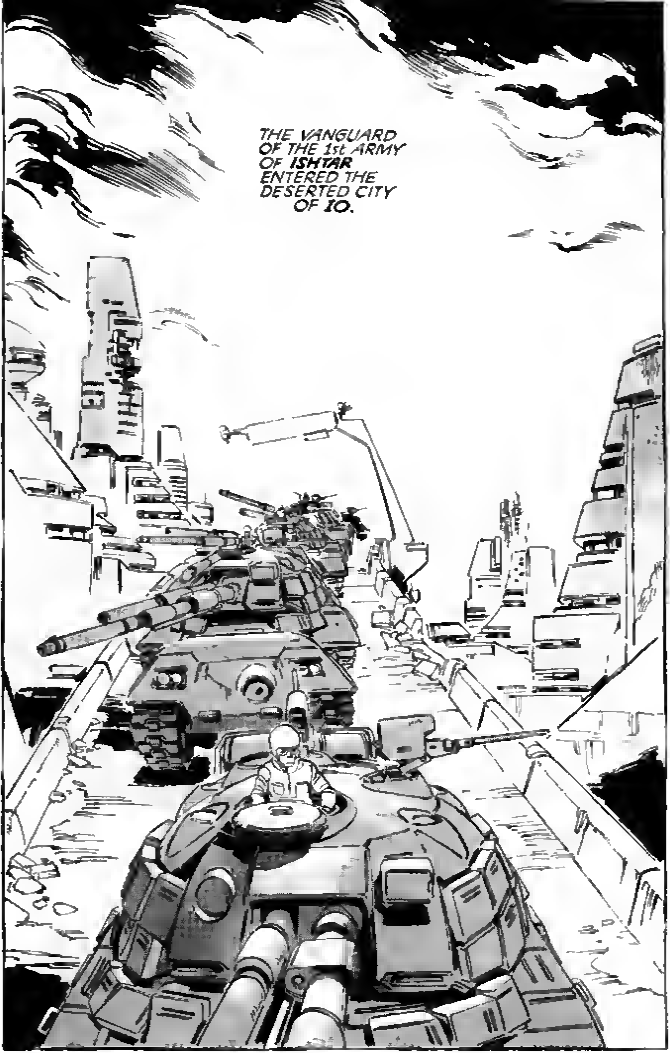
HE'S THE ONLY NON-ENLISTED MAN IN THE UNIT, BUT HE HAS SERVED WITH DISTINCTION.
IT'S TRUE THAT WE'RE PLANNING NO FURTHER ACTION ON HIS CASE, BUT HIS COMBAT RECORD ISN'T THE REASON.
NEVER HEARD SUCH A LOAD A--
LIEUTENANT MACLUTH !
YOU SEEM TO BE AWFULLY FAMILIAR WITH THIS CASE FOR SOMEONE WHO ARRIVED AT HER POST SO RECENTLY.
YES
I JUST HAPPEN TO BE ACQUAINTED WITH THE INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION.
ON...ON A PURELY PROFESSIONAL BASIS, OF COURSE.
SCREW YOU!!!
CAN THE BULLSHIT! WE'VE HEARD ENOUGH!!
BEEEP

YOU WANT KEN, YOU JUST TRY AND TAKE HIM!!
STUFF IT!
TAKE OFF!
WE AIN'T GONNA FOLLOW NO COLONEL'S ORDERS ANYWAY !!
MAKE THOSE RACIST BASTARDS APOLO-GIZE !!
WE AIN'T KIDDIN' !!
MR SENO!
YOUR CASE HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO US

Y-YOU!
WE WILL TAKE SUCH MEASURES AS ARE DEEMED APPROPRIATE IN THE NAME OF THE TERRAN MISSION.
MEANWHILE, CONDUCT YOURSELF IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER!
YEAH, RIGHT!
THE MOBILE INFANTRY'S A BUNCH'A CRAZIES!
YEAH, WE'LL BE BE KILLED IF WE GO OUT NOW!
SO WHAT'S TERRA GONNA DO ABOUT THESE CRETINS OUTSIDE?!
VERY WELL, GENTLEMEN.
I'LL SEE TO IT
WAIT INSIDE UNTIL ORDER HAS BEEN RESTORED IN THE AREA!
DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, START ANYTHING!
.....?
AS FOR YOU, MR. SENO...
PUT ON THE HEADSET, PLEASE


TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, HON
WHAAAAT?!
NO FAIR, YOU KNOB!!
YOU GOT TWO GIRLS?!
YOU LUCKY SWINE!! SHE'S BABE!
THUD
WHOK
HEK

JULY 25,
VENUS YEAR 72


THE VANGUARD OF THE 1st ARMY OF ISHTAR ENTERED THE DESERTED CITY OF IO.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL AKHBAR AND MESADA...
...APHRODIA HAD ABANDONED THE CAPITAL AND WAS PREPARING FOR A WAR OF ATTRITION.
THE UNOPPOSED OCCUPATION WAS SWIFT.
FROM THIS DAY ON, THE STATE OF APHRODIA WAS NO LONGER UNDER THE RULE OF ONE GOVERNMENT.

BKOOM
BOOM

WRAMM
BKOOM

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HITTING B[illegible].
REALLY PUTTIN' ON A SHOW, huh....

MUST BE THE AIR FORCE...
THEY'RE REALLY HAMMERING THE PLACE.
KEN!
IT'S YOUR BUDDIES!!
THUD
THUD
THUMP
MOANN!
HOW'S MAGGIE DOING?
SHE'S FINE!
SHE REALLY WANTS TO SEE YOU!

CMON!
IT'S SAFE NOW...
THE SOLDIERS'RE ALL WATCHING THE AIR RAIDS!
GREAT!
WHOA THERE!
SNEAKIN' OUT ON US, PAL?
PLAYIN' TONITE ONLY, IT'S "DEATH-DEFYING LOVE ON THE BATTLE-FIELD"...!
DAMN, AIN'T YOU ONE FOR THE BABES!
WE BETTER GO HELP YA WITH ALL OF 'EM..!
BK ROOOM
HEY!
HEY, YOU!!
WHERE THE HELL Y'ALL THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
HEY!
YOU'RE RE-STRICTED TO QUAR-TERS!!

AW, KURTZ AND THE COLONEL CAN BABY-SIT THE CARRIER!
GIVE 'EM OUR BEST REGARDS!
WAIT! YOU'RE JUST GONNA GET INTO TROUBLE!
COME BACK HERE!!
BKOOOOOOOM

PEOPLE OF THE KLIK GLORIOUS AUTONOMOUS STATE OF APHRODIA!
THE INVADERS HAVE FINALLY LIMPED INTO THE CAPITAL!
FZZRK
ZZZ
THANKS TO THE HEROIC RESISTANCE ZZRK OF OUR FIGHTING FORCES...
THE INVADING TROOPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ZKKK TO A PILE OF CORPSES!
JUST AS HITLER'S TROOPS WERE ROUTED FROM RUSSIAN IZRK
--ON TERRA BACK IN THE BRZAK CENTURY
AND JUST AS NAPOLEON'S ARMY
--MET WITH DESTRUCTION THERE A CENTURY BEFORE IZKKK
SO, TOO
--SHALL THE BZZKK BARBARIC HORDES FROM ISHTAR
--MEET WITH UTTER DEFEAT
THEIR BONES SCATTERED OVER THE BATTLEFIELD!
FZK

WE PLEDGE OUR SZZKK LASTING DEVOTION--
TO THE TRUTH AND SPIRIT --
THAT DWELL IN OUR LAND !
THE HEART-BEAT OF SZZKK PLANET TRAN-SCENDS THE POWER OF MEN
GOOD GOD
THUMP
KNOW THAT RIGHT-EOUSNESS IS OUR ALLY !
FZZKK
MY PEOPLE !!
THAT, AND THAT ALONE SZZKK IS THE ONE THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH !!

THERE IS NO FUTURE ON TERRA !
THE FUTURE IS HERE, ON VENUS !!
THE FOOLS OF ISHTAR LIE DEAD, HAVING STRAYED FROM THE TRUE PATH !!
VICTORY IS OURS, O PEOPLE OF APHRODIA !!

KEN!

YAY!
YAHOO!
THIS... THIS IS
GREAT!!
HEY, GEORGE!
TOM!
RON! TOSHI!
HEY, DAN!
TONY!!
COME ON!!
THE HOUND PATROL IS HERE!!
Umm YOU OKAY?
I'M GLAD
Uh-HUH
Uh-HUH
MIRANDA AND ROB WERE REALLY GREAT
THEY CAME AND BROUGHT ME HERE HA, HA
Uh-HUH
Uh-HUH
"Uh-HUH, Uh-HUH"!
HAR, HAR!
KONK
MAGGIE
Y KNOW, I, uh
YOU AND ME

GIMME YER AUTOGRAPH!!
ERK
WHERE'S TH' BIKES?
OKAY HOUNDS!!
PLEASE!
GEEZ
UMM.
CAN I A GUY HAVE A LITTLE PRIVACY?
HEY! HEY!
THIS GUY..
HI-HI.
HIS BROTHER'S A HOUND DRIVER!!
YOU KNOW MIKE?

I MET HIM HERE...
A FEW DAYS AGO
AN' AN WE TALKED
BUT HE'S NOT HERE, NOW
.....
MIKE eh? WELL, KID er...
SHHHOOP!
Uh, LOOK ...
MIKE, uh HE...
HE GOT HURT, SO...
THE MEDICS TOOK HIM TO THE HOSPITAL ...
REALLY ...?
Y-YEAH, CROSS MY HEART!
HAH!
NO KIDDIN', huh?
!!

COME ON, KID-- TELL HIM THE TRUTH
TROOPS HAVE BEEN DYING LIKE FLIES
THE RATS ARE PICKIN' HIS BONES IN THE DESERT BY NOW
Y-YOU--
--THAT WE'RE LOSING!!
YOU HOUND SCUM BAGS
IT'S 'CAUSE OF WIMPS LIKE YOU--
PLAYIN' AT WAR JUST TO SHOW OFF FOR A FEW LITTLE BRATS

OH, YEAH?!
KEN !!
MAGGIE ! COME HERE !!
GET THE CHIL-DREN INSIDE !!
WELL WELL
IF IT AIN'T THAT MURDERIN HOUND DRIVER!
SO THEY LET YOU OUT TO PLAY
BAD MOVE, BUD ...!

ALL RIGHT!!

WHAT!!
I SEE!
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHERE'D ALL THE OTHERS GO?!
ALL RIGHT, MEN!
WE'RE MOVIN' OU--
BAM

WHERE DID THEY GO, SOLDIER!?!
Ev
YOUR MEN?
THEY HEADED FOR THE REFUGEE CAMP
WE TRIED TO STOP 'EM, BUT
NUMBER SEVEN'S FRIENDS SHOWED UP AND THEY ALL TOOK OFF TOGETHER
VRMMM
NUMBER SEVEN
KEN SENO ...
DAMN HIM!

THAT SON OF A BITCH...
...PUNK BASTARD!
VRMMM
27

WAIT !
KEN, STOP !!
KEN!!
THAT'S HIM..
THE ONE WHO SHOT THE CAPTAIN
HAND HIM OVER !
WE'LL TAKE BETTER CARE OF HIM THAN ANY COURT-MARTIAL !
HAH!
BUNCH'A USELESS ARMY PUKES!
YOU'D RATHER CHASE PUSSY THAN THE ENEMY!!
YOU MAKE ME LAUGH!

STOP!!

KURTZ!
EMER-GENCY ORDERS!
EVERYONE RETURN TO YOUR OWN UNIT!!
GAO'S BEEN TAKEN! THE ENEMY'S ADVANCING!
ONE COMPANY IS HEADING DOWN THIS SIDE OF LAKE SAVINE!!

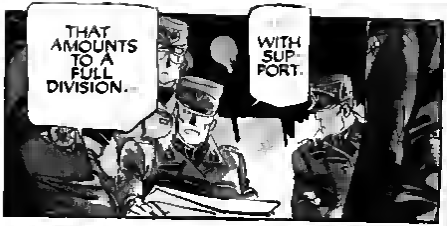
ALL UNITS MUST REMOBILIZE IMMEDIATELY AND FORM A LINE OF DEFENSE NORTH OF THE CAMP!
AT LEAST WE CAN TRY TO CHECK THE SOUTHERN ADVANCE OF THIS ONE COMPANY!

WITH SO MANY REFUGEES FROM THE CAPITAL AREA
--CAMPED ON THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN SHORES OF THE LAKE
WE CAN'T LEAVE OUR COUNTRYMEN AT THE MERCY OF THOSE MURDERERS FROM ISHTAR!
SENO ...
YOU'RE NOT AN ENLISTED MAN, AND BESIDES, YOU'RE IN TERRAN CUSTODY
YOU HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO OBEY THIS ORDER--
YOU THINK I'D OBEY AN ORDER --
-- FROM YOU, ANYWAY?

I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE-FORE
AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO NOW !!
BUT I'LL GO..
FOR MIKE'S SAKE
GRNNNN

GRNN
GRNN
GRNN
GRNN
GRNN
07

"20 A-1 OCTOPUS CLASS TANKS...
SELF-PROPELLED HEAVY ARTILLERY A BATTALION'S WORTH OF M15 MAIN BATTLE TANKS...
AND LARGE NUMBERS OF INFANTRY AND COMBAT VEHICLES..."
GNGN
GNGN
GNGN


THAT AMOUNTS TO A FULL DIVISION...
WITH SUPPORT.

WE CAN'T STOP AN ENEMY LIKE THAT HEAD ON

SENO!!

I REPORTED EVERYTHING I SAW.
IF YOU WANT ME TO GO OUT ON RECON AGAIN, I WILL...
...BUT IT'S A WASTE OF TIME.
HEY, THE SQUAD HASN'T MUSTERED YET!
GED OUDDA DA WAY!!
HALF OF THEM AIN'T HERE! WHAT'LL WE DO?!
STEADY... OKAY!
GET THE CREW CHIEF OVER HERE!
GONNA GET RUN OVER!
MOVE IT, KIDS!
G'WAN, G'WAN...
BOOZE! Oh, YEAH!
CAN'T FIGHT THIS KIND OF WAR SOBER!
GRNN
GRNN
GRNN

KEN!
KEN, WAIT!
WE GOTTA TALK!!
NO!
STOP!
DON'T!!
MIRANDA, PLEASE!!
E CONTINUED...

DARK HORSE COMICS
Aliens
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12
48 Page
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The Visitors WARS

FORGET IT !!
WHY THE HELL NOT ?!!
THE HOUND CORPS IS SHORT OF DRIVERS, RIGHT? YOU'VE LOST A LOT OF TROOPS !
MIRANDA
SO I'M OFFERING TO RIDE! WHAT'S THE PROBLEM ?
Huh ??!
WELL, THANKS FOR THE OFFER
BUT I DON'T THINK THE COLONEL NEEDS ANYONE
AND NEITHER DOES THE LIEUTENANT.
DANGER
GRNN
GRNN

Hmph
KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS?
WHAT!!
YOU'RE ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE --
YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GRAB SOME GLORY
SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME AN EXPERT ON WHAT I THINK?!
YOU GET A LITTLE TASTE OF FAME, AND NOW YOU THINK YOU'RE HOT SHIT!
M MIRANDA, CALM DOWN!
YOU ARRO-GANT LITTLE SNOT!
WASSAMATTER? YOU AFRAID OF A LITTLE COMPETITION IN THE HERO MARKET?!

YOU STUPID BITCH!
!!
ooh!
ooh!
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT!
YOU THINK THIS IS SOME KINDA GODDAMN GAME?!

. . . . .
THE HOUNDS ARE JUST CANNON FODDER!
DON'T YOU GET IT?!
OUR LIVES MEAN LESS THAN A DOG'S! WHAT'S SO GODDAMN HEROIC ABOUT THAT?!
BESIDES, YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT APHRODIA DOESN'T EVEN EXIST ANYMORE!
WE'VE ALREADY LOST THE WAR!!
THE BIG SHOTS IN IO GAVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!
SO WHAT WAS IT ALL FOR?!
ALL THE GUYS WHO WERE KILLED AND WOUNDED
THEY WEREN'T HEROES. THEY WERE SUCKERS!!
. . . . Huh!

I KNOW YOU, KEN. YOU'VE ALWAYS ACTED LIKE YOU DIDN'T CARE WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!!
IF YOU FELT BORED, WELL, HEY, WAR WAS, OKAY, TOO, RIGHT?
ESPECIALLY COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO USED TO SAY HE DIDN'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT APHRODIA OR WHETHER HE LIVED OR DIED!
THAT'S A PRETTY FANCY LITTLE SPEECH
AND YOU BITCH ABOUT WINNING AND LOSING
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON YOU JOINED UP, ISN'T IT?! BOREDOM!! BUT NOW IT'S NO FUN BEING CANNON FODDER..
ABOUT TIME YOU GREW UP, YOU SPOILED BRAT!!

SO THANKS FOR THE ADVICE
..BUT I THINK I'LL DO AS I PLEASE
I'M NO DIFFERENT THAN YOU. NO BETTER, NO WORSE.
ANYWAY, YOUR OPINION DOESN'T MATTER. I'LL JUST GO TALK TO YOUR BOSS
NO!!
YOU'LL BE KILLED, MIRANDA!
BESIDES
I WANT YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THE OTHERS
YOU'RE THE STRONGEST
YOU GOTTA LOOK AFTER MAGGIE AND ROB...
IS THAT AN ORDER?
TO ME?
YES!!
YOU STAY HOME AND..

WHAT A LAUGH!!
JUST WHO THE HELL D'YOU THINK YOU'RE ASKING TO BABYSIT YOUR GIRLFRIEND FOR YOU!?!
YOU WANT ME BACK HOME BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT WHILE MACHO MAN SENO PROTECTS ME FROM THE MEAN OL' ISHTARIANS? HAH!!
YOU WISH, LITTLE BOY!!
WHY YOU--!
THAT'S ENOUGH!!

WOMAN OR NOT, FRIEND OR NOT...
...I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THIS KIND OF CRAP FROM YOU!!
WHIRD
I'VE HAD IT!!
DANG
HELP!
SOME-BODY COME!! QUICK!!
MAKE THEM STOP!!
NNGH
WHO

BEEP!
07
MOUTH OFF TO ME, WILL YA, YA FRIGGIN' LITTLE JERK!
YOU'RE GETTIN' ME PISSED OFF!
GYAAGGH
BETTER LEARN YOUR PLACE!
WHO
THOK
KAKK

WAAHHH!!
TRY TO PUSH ME AROUND, HUH? DREAM ON, PAL!!
I'M THE BOSS AROUND HERE!!
AND YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT!!
WRANGG

WHAT THE HELL?
A LOVER'S SPAT LOOKS LIKE!
AW WHO CARES WHAT IT'S ABOUT!
SOCK IT TO 'IM, GIRLIE!!

WHOK
KEN!
YOU'RE KIDDING! A BIG FIGHT.
--BETWEEN KEN AND MIRANDA ?!
HEY WHAT'S UP?
OH, NO!!
KEN! SPEAK TO ME!

HIS EYES ARE ROLLED BACK
LOOKS BAD
KEN!
KEN, PLEASE!

A HEAD INJURY? THEN YOU SHOULDN'T MOVE HIM!
Hmm SEEMS OKAY
IT'S JUST A MILD CON-CUSSION
HE'S BEEN KNOCKED OUT, THAT'S ALL
YOU THERE! YOU KNOW HIM?
GO GET A STRETCHER FROM SUPPLY!
CARRY HIM TO A QUIET PLACE GENTLY!
I'LL HAVE A DOCTOR SENT RIGHT AWAY!
COME ON, COME ON!!
THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE!
KEEP THOSE TANKS MOVING!!
GO! GO!

GRNN
GRNN
GRNN
GRNN
GRNN
SHAME ON YOU, MIRANDA
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE RESPONSIBLE ONE...
WHY ARE YOU STIRRING UP TROUBLE?
THIS IS A BAD TIME TO ACT IRRESPONSIBLY.
IT WON'T HURT JUST YOU, BUT OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL.
THAT CUTE LITTLE CRYBABY SWEETHEART OF KEN'S...
FOR EXAMPLE
Hmm?

TEN HUT!

WE DEPART ON OUR MISSION BEFORE DAWN TODAY!
OUR TARGET IS THE ENEMY ARMORED FORCE NOW ADVANCING SOUTHWARD!
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THIS MAY BE--
--THE HOUND UNIT'S LAST MISSION!
AS YOU KNOW...
OUR UNIT HAS SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES SINCE IT WAS FIRST MOBILIZED.
AND WE'VE HAD LITTLE SUCCESS IN FINDING REPLACEMENT DRIVERS.
WE'RE NOW AT THE LIMIT OF OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN OUR FIGHTING STRENGTH!!
FURTHERMORE, AS YOU ARE NO DOUBT AWARE, THE CHAIN OF COMMAND OF THE APHRODIAN ARMED FORCES HAS COLLAPSED!!

WE NO LONGER --
--HAVE ANY HIGHER MILITARY AUTHORITY OVER US !!
FOR THIS NEXT OPERATION, YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR ORDERS DIRECTLY FROM ME!
AND FROM ME ONLY !!

NOW, THEN
EVERY-ONE
STAY ALIVE!
DO YOU HEAR ME?
DON'T RISK YOUR LIVES NEED-LESSLY!
DON'T TAKE CHANCES JUST TO SCORE KILLS!
IF, IN THE HEAT OF COMBAT
YOU'RE FACED WITH A CHOICE BETWEEN FAILURE AND LIFE OR SUCCESS AND DEATH--
--FAIL AND LIVE!!
SILENCE!!

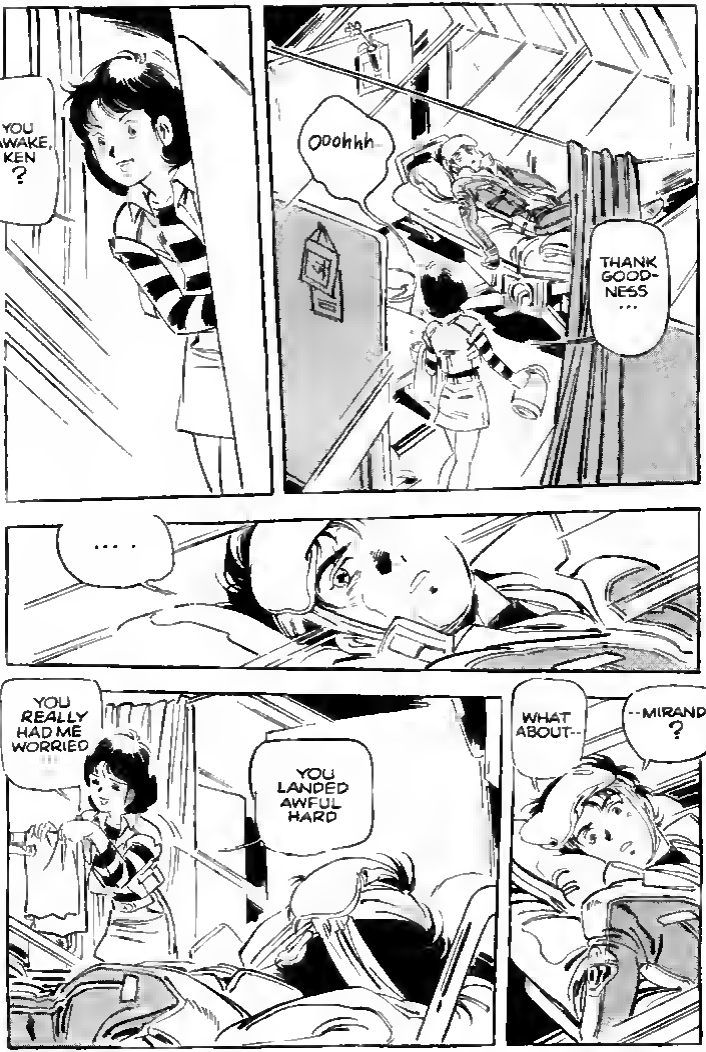
LUCKILY FOR US, THE ENEMY ALREADY TREATS OUR APPEARANCE ON THE BATTLE-FIELD WITH RESPECT. SO MAKE YOUR PRESENCE FELT!
BUT DON'T BE DRAWN INTO AN ALL-OUT BATTLE!
REGARDLESS OF OUR TACTICS, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN ANNIHILATE AN ENTIRE DIVISION!
WE HAVE ONLY ONE OBJECTIVE -- TO FORCE THE ENEMY TO CHANGE COURSE!
THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL BE SPILLING YOUR BLOOD FOR
..SO USE IT WISELY!
HEY, DIDJA HEAR?

KURTZ MADE A REAL GIVE-'EM-HELL SPEECH!
WELL, I CAN GUESS HOW HE FEELS
OLD MAN SIMS IS TOTALLY OUT OF THE PICTURE
HHNK
YO!
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOING?!
YOU OUGHTA BE WITH TH OTHER DRIVERS IN THE BRIEFING ROOM!
HEH RUNNIN A LITTLE LATE
DON'T SWEAT IT
N-NO
NO PROB

UH LESSEE
WHERE'S MY er
MY MACHINE
TWO-SEVEN FRACTURED RADIUS, SPRAINED KNEE.
!?!
BRMM
Hmm
AH, THIS ONE'LL DO
NUMBER TWO SEVEN, eh
DIS-LOCATED SHOULDER, BROKEN JAW
BRMMM

HEY! SOMEONE JUST RIPPED OFF A HOUND!!
ALERT THE COLONEL!
SHIT!
WE'VE BEEN HAD!
FRONT-WHEEL DRIVE-- STEERS DAMN NEAR LIKE A THREE-WHEELER!
THIS'S A CINCH!

BRMM


YOU AWAKE, KEN ?
Oooohhh
THANK GOOD-NESS ...
. . . .
YOU REALLY HAD ME WORRIED
YOU LANDED AWFUL HARD
WHAT ABOUT--
--MIRANDA ?

Hmph!!
I HATE HER!
WHAT A PERFECTLY AWFUL PERSON!
SAY
WOULD YOU LIKE A DRINK OF ICE WATER?
Uh, YEAH
OKAY
SURE QUIET IN HERE
AT FIRST, YOU WERE IN THE FIELD HOSPITAL AT THE FRONT.
..BUT Lt MACLUTH SAID IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS AND SENT YOU HERE
SHE'S STRONG...
BUT SHE'S KIND, TOO I LIKE HER

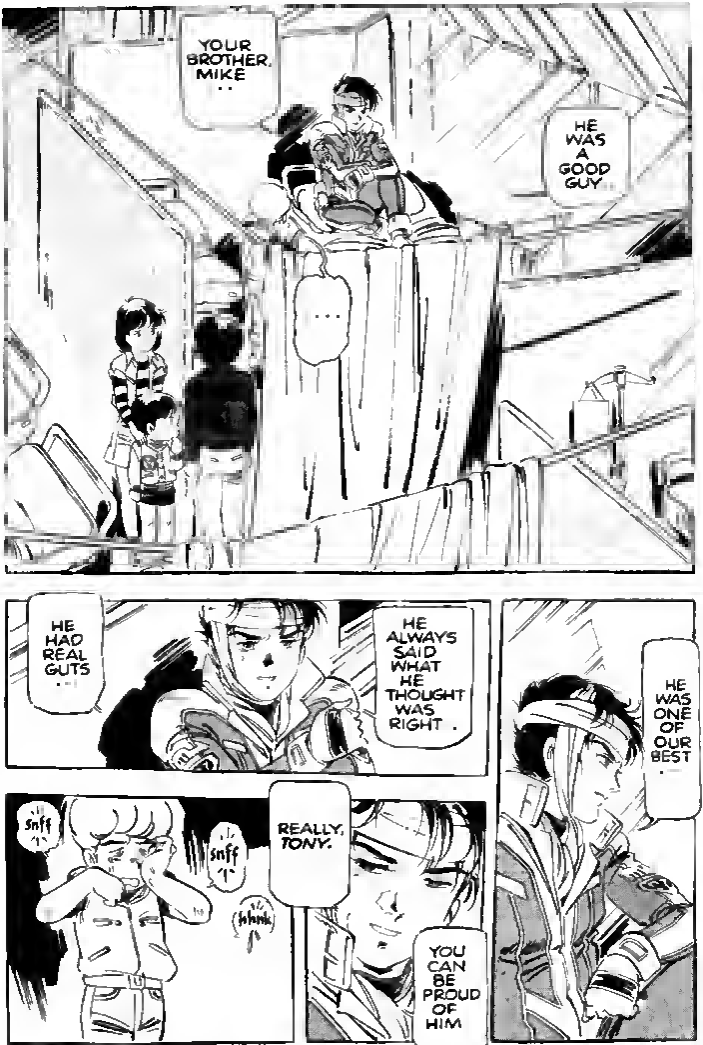
THIS THIS REMINDS ME...
--OF HOW IT WAS FOR US BEFORE.
IT'S AS IF ALL THESE TERRIBLE THINGS...
HAD...
HAD NEVER EVEN HAPPENED...

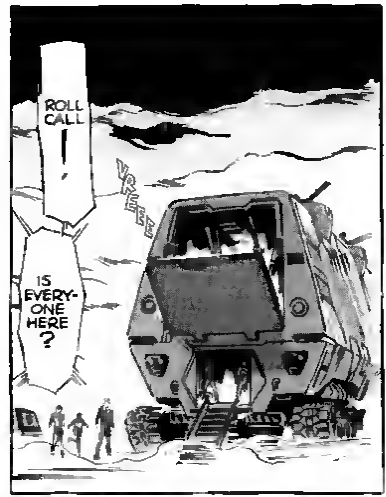
WAY BACK THEN, ROSIE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT US.
ABOUT HOW WE DIDN'T. Y'KNOW. DO ANYTHING...
SHE SAID IT WAS STRANGE...
SHE SAID WE WERE "SUCH PRUDES"...
I WONDER...
DO YOU THINK SHE'S RIGHT?
I-I DON'T MIND...
WHAT SHE SAID, I MEAN...
BUT...
BUT... I D-DON'T LIKE IT, EITHER...

MAGGIE
Oh, MAGGIE
I LOVE YOU.
FOREVER!

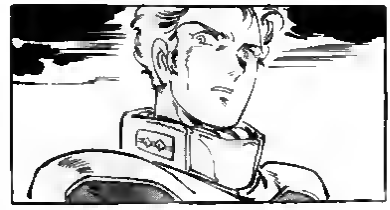
HEY, SIS!!
HUH?! WHATCHA DOIN', SIS?
FAKING INNOCENCE
Er, SORRY
BUT MIKE'S BROTHER HERE
— SAYS HE WANTS TO KNOW THE TRUTH ...
SO I THOUGHT, Y KNOW

KRAKK
NASTY WEATHER COMIN' IN...
NO SHIT...
GRZZ
GRZZ
SNIFF
ahuh...
ahuh..

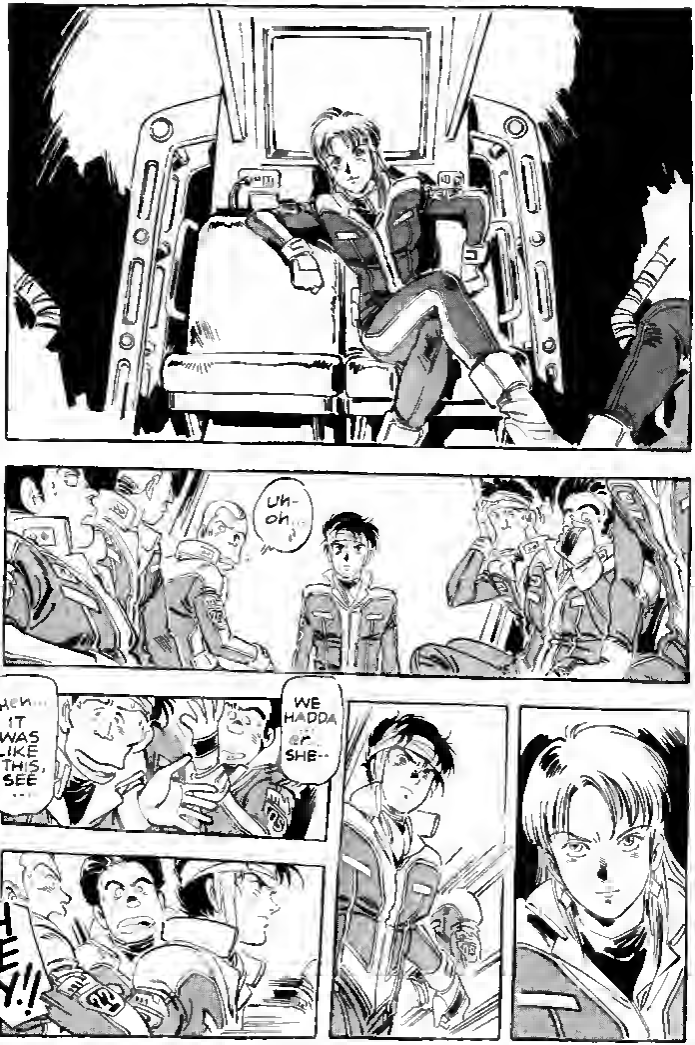

YOUR BROTHER, MIKE . .
HE WAS A GOOD GUY.
. . .
HE HAD REAL GUTS . . .
HE ALWAYS SAID WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS RIGHT .
HE WAS ONE OF OUR BEST .
snff
snff
hhnk
REALLY, TONY.
YOU CAN BE PROUD OF HIM


ROLL CALL!
IS EVERY-ONE HERE?
VROOM

WE'RE MOVING OUT!
CLOSE THE HATCH...



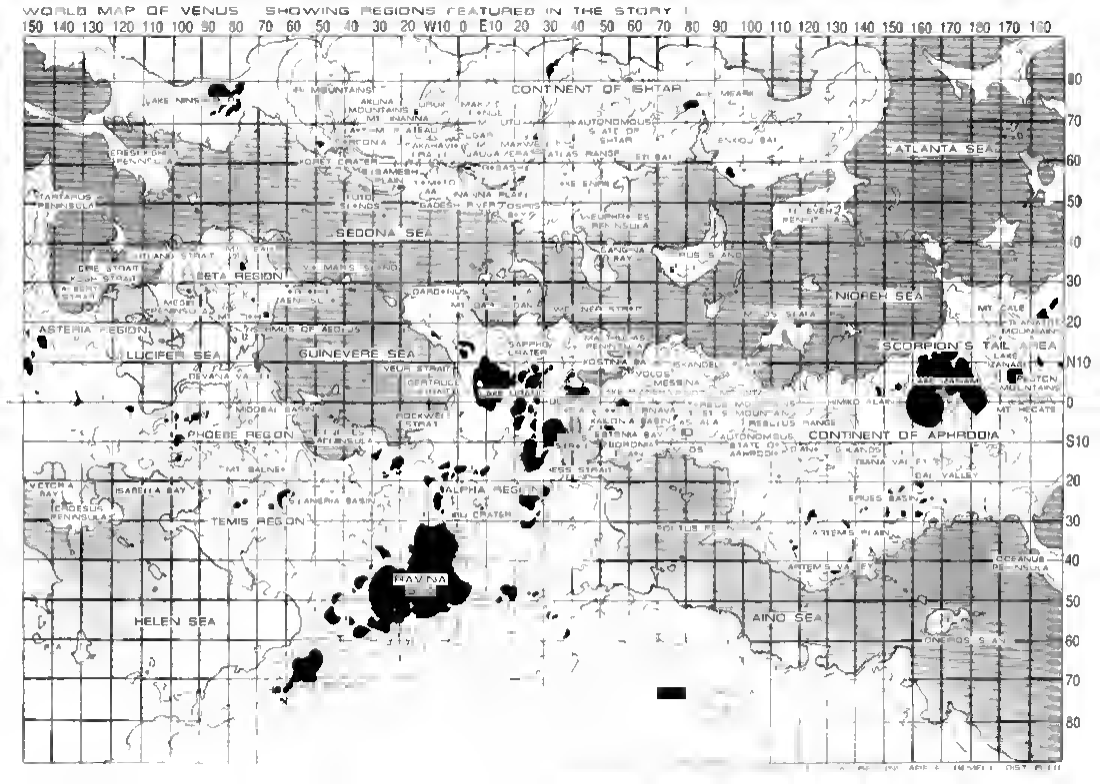
SO YOU CAME BACK, huh?
SENO
I SENT YOU A MESSAGE TELLING YOU NOT TO COME IF YOU WERE HURT--DIDN'T YOU GET IT?
HEY, HEY!
DIDN'T YOU BUST YOUR HEAD OPEN?!
!!


Uh-oh
Heh... IT WAS LIKE THIS, SEE...
WE HADDA ...er SHE--
HEY!!

FWMP!
WHA?!
HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET IN HERE!
WITH MY LEGS!
HOUND TWO SEVEN WAS FIXED, BUT THE RIDER WASN'T. THEY NEEDED A REPLACEMENT!
YOUR YOUNG COMMANDER IS A BIT OF A TWIT..
. BUT HE SEEMS TO LISTEN TO REASON!
CHRIST
ERN
GRZZ

THE NEARLY VANQUISHED ISHTARIAN ARMY REGROUPED AND FORMED A LINE OF DEFENSE...
AND SO BEGAN AN EXTRAORDINARY BATTLE.
BUT THIS ENGAGEMENT--
WAS DESTINED NOT TO BE RECORDED IN THE OFFICIAL CHRONICLES OF THE VENUS WARS

TO BE CONTINUED


WORLD MAP OF VENUS SHOWING REGIONS FEATURED IN THE STORY
150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 W10 0 E10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 170 160
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
N10
0
S10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
CONTINENT OF ISHTAR
ATLANTA SEA
SEDONA SEA
NIOFER SEA
SCORPION'S TAIL AREA
ASTERIA REGION
LUCIFER SEA
GUINEVERE SEA
PHOEBE REGION
CONTINENT OF APHRODIA
ALPHA REGION
TEMIS REGION
HELEN SEA
AINO SEA
NAVNA
OCEANUS PENINSULA

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WHKOOM

NO OCTO-PUS TANKS!
THIS'LL BE A TURKEY SHOOT!
MIR-ANDA...
WHERE IS SHE?!
OVER THERE!

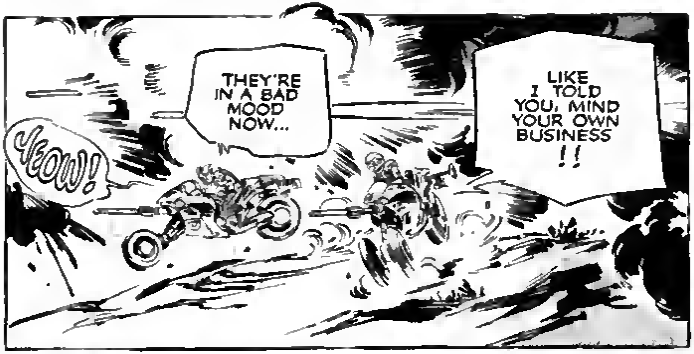
GET UNDER COVER, YOU IDIOT!!
WHAT THE HELL DOES SHE THINK SHE'S DOING?!
SHE'S TOTALLY EXPOSED OUT THERE!
BRMMM
KEEP DOWN!
THEY'LL PICK YOU OFF WITH THEIR MACHINE GUNS!
MIND YOUR OWN DAMN BUSINESS!!
GODDAMN SNOT-NOSED KID!!

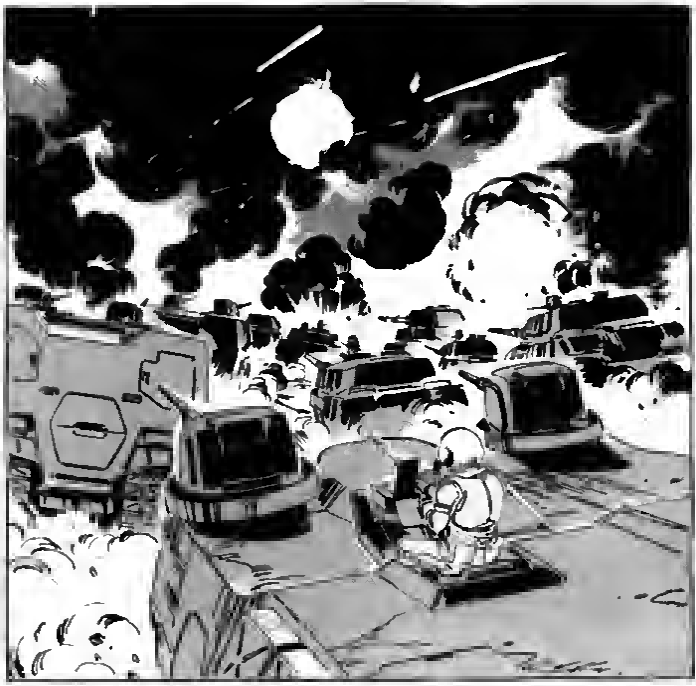
HEY, LISTEN TO ME !
DAMN YOU !!
SHIT!

GRAN
GRANNN
SHE'S CRAZY!
IT'S ONLY HER FIRST TIME OUT!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

GOT HIM!!
KEEP MOVING!!
YOU CAN TAKE OUT THOSE OLD M19s WITH A MISSILE!!
DON'T GET ANY CLOSER THAN YOU HAVE TO!
BE CARE-FUL!!
LOOK, PAL
WHAT?!

WHOOM


YEOW!
THEY'RE IN A BAD MOOD NOW...
LIKE I TOLD YOU, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS !!



WHAT TH-?
THEY'RE PUTTING UP ONE HELLUVA FIGHT
BREAK UP INTO PLATOONS!!
DON'T MAKE THEIR JOB EASIER BY TRYING TO HIDE EACH OTHER!

BLAM
BLAM
29

HEY! THAT'S A BROAD!!
SAY WHAT?!
ON THAT BIKE!
NO SHIT! I--
YAAAHH!!

KEN!!!
ARE YOU LISTENING?!
PRETTY GOOD, huh ?!
29
I FEEL GREAT!!
SEE? VENUS ISN'T A LOST CAUSE YET!!
WE DO HAVE SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR!!
WE'LL SHOW 'EM! WE'LL SHOW THOSE TERRANS!!
I'LL--

BFTTT
HOUND

MIRANDA!!

COME IN, MIR-ANDA!
I CAN'T READ YOU!!
MIRANDA!!!

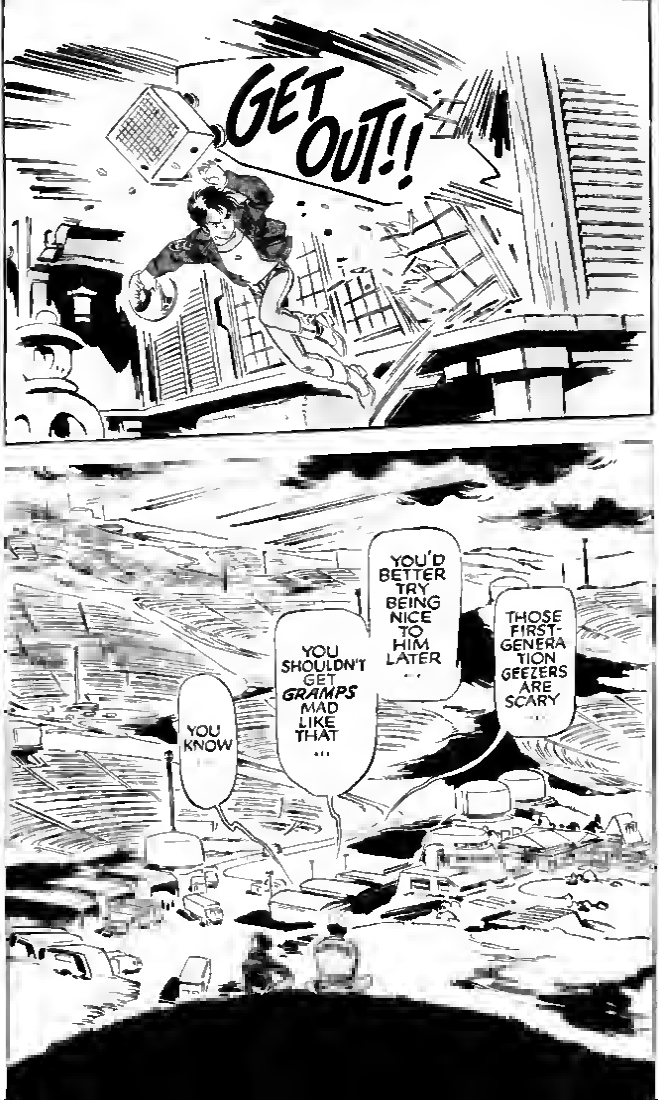
07

GREEN FARM SENDO
3M

KEN!
SAY HEY!
GOOD TO SEE YA!
MY MY
WE HEARD YOU WEREN'T COMING BACK
A NOTICE CAME FROM YOUR SCHOOL
WHILE BACK
YOU LOOK HEALTHY BUT AREN'T YOU DOING SOME KIND OF DANGEROUS WORK?
LISTEN, SON
YOU'D BETTER SHAPE UP YOU'VE GOT EVERY-ONE WORRIED

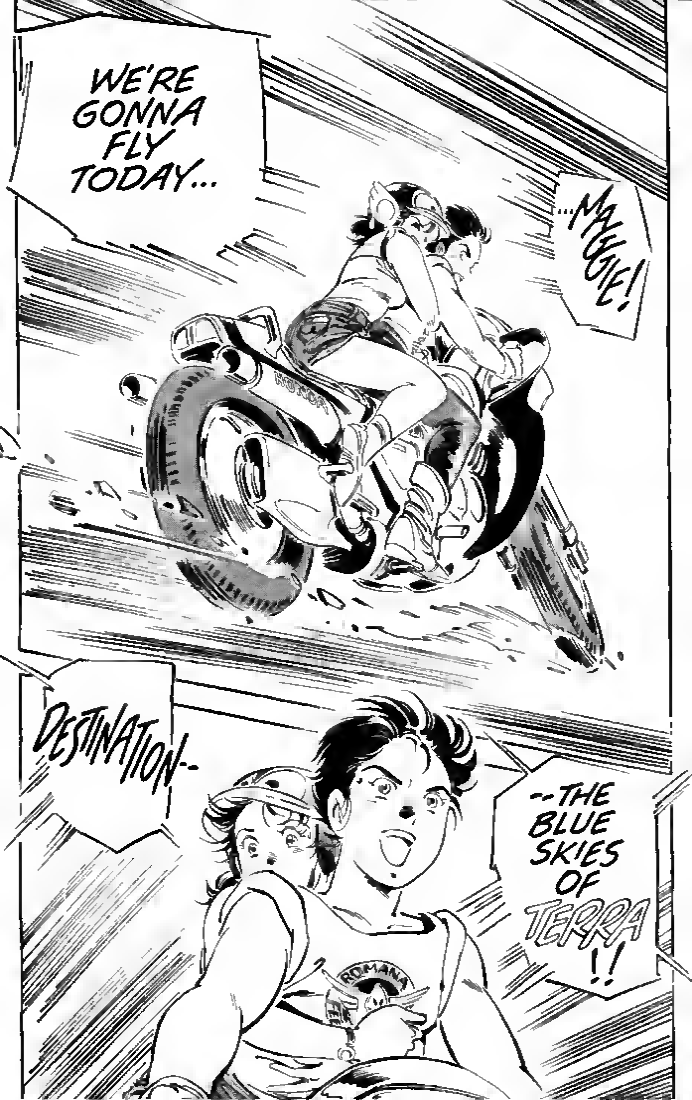
FOR-GET IT !
忍
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GO TO TERRA FOR? AND WHY NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN ?
KLIK
SIT, SIT !

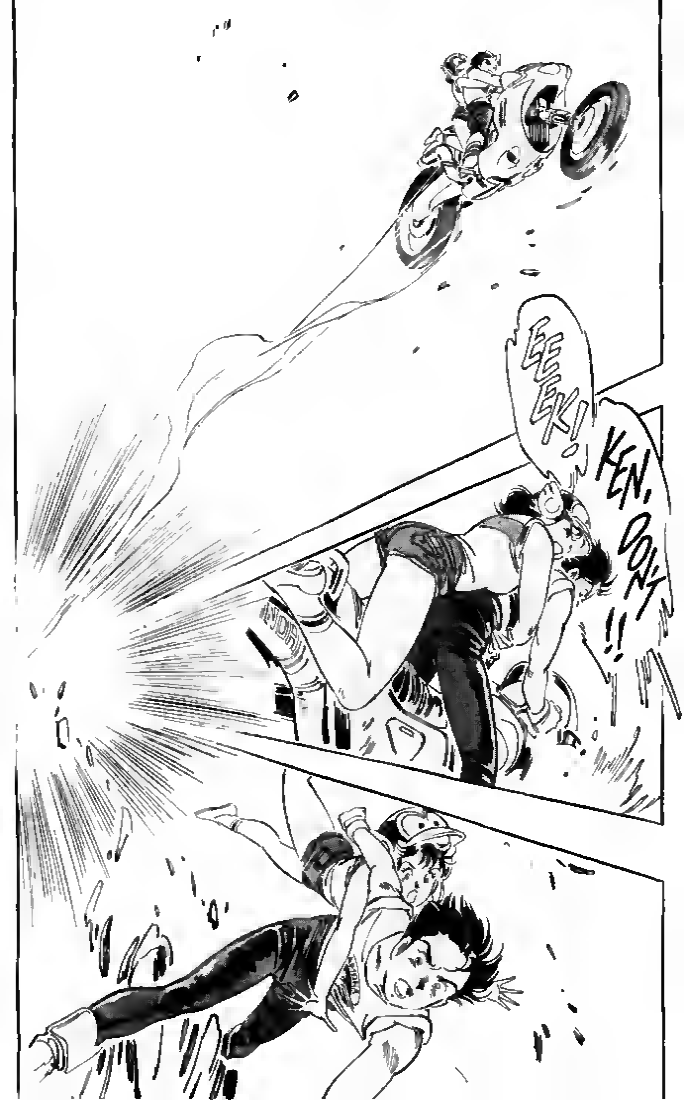
TERRA
TERRA IS A DWELLING PLACE FOR DEMONS
IT'S BEEN CORRUPTED BY HUMAN HANDS FOR TOO LONG... IT'S WORTHLESS NOW.
THAT'S WHY WE ABANDONED IT AND CAME HERE
THAT WAS FOR *YOUR* USELESS GENERATION!
IT MIGHT JUST BE DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW, FOR ME AND MY FRIENDS...
EXCUSE ME?
I'M AFRAID I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU WERE JUST A BUNCH OF PARASITES, WEREN'T YOU?!
SUCKING THE LIFE FROM TERRA...
SO YOU CAME HERE...
...TO BLEED A NEW PLANET DRY...
...THAT'S THE *REAL* REASON, ISN'T IT?!


GET OUT!!
THOSE FIRST GENERATION GEEZERS ARE SCARY...
YOU'D BETTER TRY BEING NICE TO HIM LATER...
YOU SHOULDN'T GET GRAMPS MAD LIKE THAT...
YOU KNOW

IT'S FINE FOR YOU, BRO'
YOU'RE ON A "GLORIOUS MISSION TO MAKE VENUS GREEN," RIGHT?
Huh?
I NEVER SAID I--
Aw, FORGET IT!!
DON'T TRY TO HUMOR ME! YOU'VE GOT A FARM, ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS WORK HARD LIKE A GOOD BOY AND NEVER THINK..
BULLSHIT!!!
YOU THINK IT'S SO GREAT, TRY IT YOURSELF!
I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH LANO AS YOU WANT!
NOT THAT A LAZY, SCREWED-UP PUNK LIKE YOU COULD--
I DON'T NEED IT!
NOT YOUR LOUSY FARM AND NOT THIS PHONY FUTURE EITHER!!

IT'S ALL A ROCK!!
LOOK AT THIS STUPID FUNGUS YOU TRICK INTO GROWING HERE-- USING PURIFIED WATER AND ARTIFICIAL LIGHT!
MAYBE YOU CAN FOOL IT, BUT NOT ME!!
VENUS IS GONNA TURN BACK INTO THE DEAD PLANET IT WAS BEFORE!
THAT'S OUR REAL FUTURE!!


WE'RE GONNA FLY TODAY...
...MAGGIE!
DESTINATION--
--THE BLUE SKIES OF TERRA!!


EEEK!
KEN, DON'T!!

Hm?

GRNNNN

.....
.....
WRAM
WRAM
ZERO-SEVEN
GRNNN
COME IN, ZERO-SEVEN
...
huhh
..
huhh

AAAHH
WHERE'D I GET HIT...?
LEG, huh..
LEG'S STILL THERE
Heh
BETTER SHAPE THAN MY HELMET..
Uhhh
GRNNNGRNNN

TO BE CONTINUED

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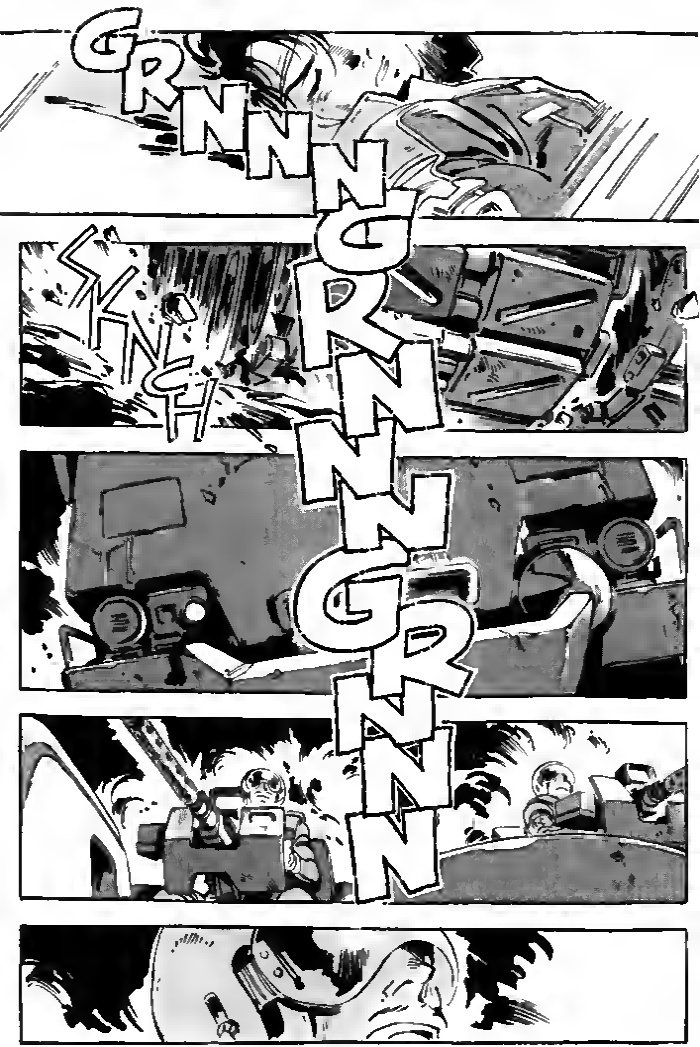
The Venus WARS


GRNNNNGRNNNGRNNNGRNNN
SKNCH!

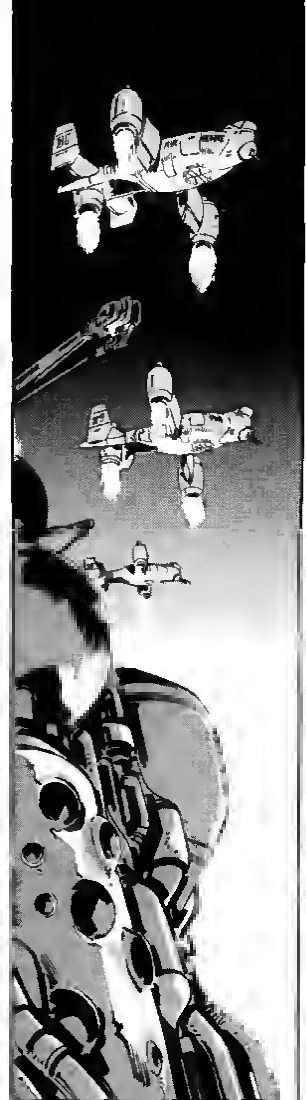
GRNNNN
GRNNNG
GRNNN
GRNNN

GRNN
GRNN
GRNN

AIRBORNE

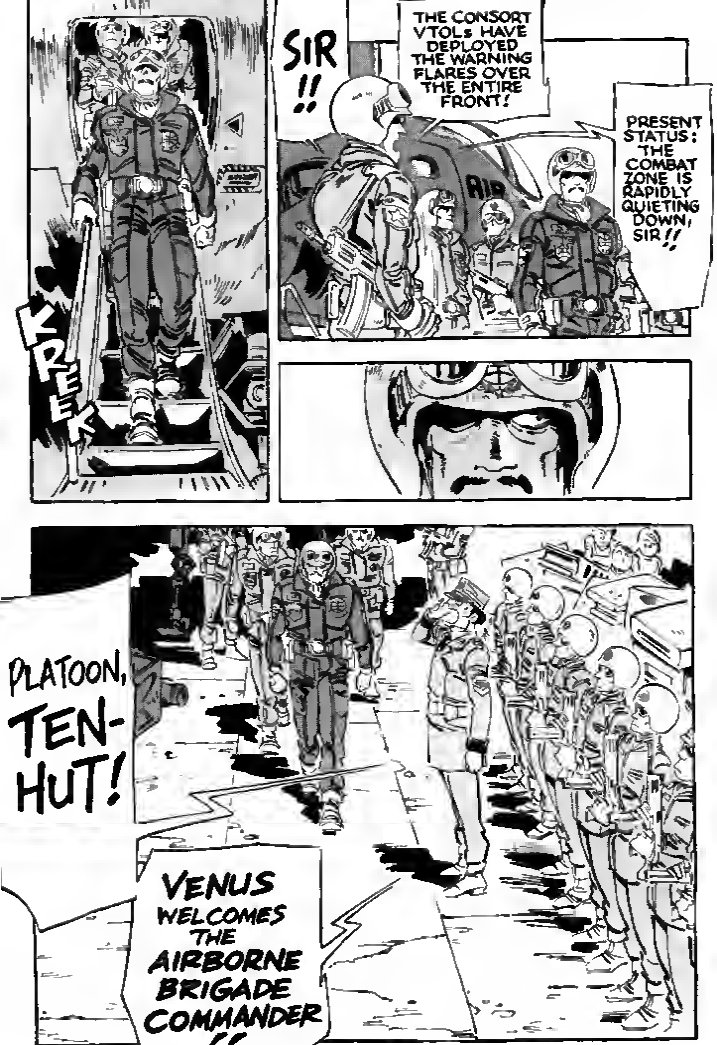
SHR

KSSHHH
POF!



IT'S THE TERRAN SPACE FORCE!!
ARE THEY GONNA STOP THE WAR?!

UHOH
. . . .


KREEK
SIR !!
THE CONSORT VTOLs HAVE DEPLOYED THE WARNING FLARES OVER THE ENTIRE FRONT!
PRESENT STATUS: THE COMBAT ZONE IS RAPIDLY QUIETING DOWN, SIR!!
AIR
PLATOON, TEN-HUT!
VENUS WELCOMES THE AIRBORNE BRIGADE COMMANDER !!

LIEUTENANT GUNNAN...
...ISN'T IT? HEAD OF MISSION SECURITY UNIT FOUR, Hmm?
...
NEITHER OF YOU HAS THE AUTHORITY TO MOBILIZE TROOPS ON YOUR OWN!
I'M AFRAID THERE'LL HAVE TO BE AN INQUIRY.. ALTHOUGH PROPERLY SPEAKING, IT'S GROUNDS FOR A COURT-MARTIAL.
AND YOU..
YOU MUST BE..
THE ROOKIE HQ ATTACHÉ
I AM AWARE OF THAT, GENERAL.

KRAK
BKOOOM
hahh
BROOM
THOSE AREN'T GUNS...
IT'S THUNDER..
WHAT ABOUT THE BATTLE ...?
PSSHH

H-HEH...
AIN'T I?
LOOKIN' GOOD...
GO AWAY
I'M ALREADY--
--A DEAD MAN...
...IN THE MUD..
GET AWAY FROM ME!!

S-STAY AWAY...
huhh
huhh
IF YOU COME... ANY CLOSER...
I... I'LL SHOOT !!
BKROOOM
GET BACK !!
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
I'LL K-KILL YOU!!
I'M NOT KIDDING !!

SKSSSHH

VERY WELL, SIR.
AS SOON AS I RETURN TO HEAD-QUARTERS, I WILL SUBMIT A REPORT--
--AND AWAIT NOTIFICATION OF THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN MY CASE.
HMPH
THERE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO BE A LOT OF PROBLEMS HERE...
BUT YOU NEED TO REALIZE THAT WHEN IN ROME, YOU MUST DO AS THE ROMANS DO.
I WILL REMEMBER THAT, SIR
EXCUSE ME, GENERAL?
MAY I ASK YOU ONE THING...?
YES...?
DID YOUR BRIGADE INTERVENE WITH THE INTENTION OF PROTECT-ING THE REFUGEES?
OR--

---WAS IT TO EVACUATE US...?
WELL...
FOR NEITHER REASON, ACTUALLY
?!
YOUR FILE SAYS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A TOP-NOTCH OFFICER--SO TELL ME, WHERE DID THEY TEACH YOU TO USE YOUR TROOPS OUT OF CHARITY?
IS THAT WHAT YOU LEARNED AT WEST POINT?
I THINK NOT
OFFICERS SHOULD NEVER--
--BE SWAYED BY SENTIMENT
ESPECIALLY IN THE USE OF THEIR TROOPS.
LET ME THROUGH--PLEASE!!
C'MON, ALREADY!
THIS IS IMPORTANT!!

I HAVE TO SPEAK IN HER DEFENSE!
LOOK, I'M BEGGING YOU-- JUST LET ME SAY ONE THING TO THE GENERAL!
DAMMIT, WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE ANYWAY!?!
AAGHH!
LEMME THROUGH, YOU--YOU PIGHEADED DOLTS!!
THIS IS MY OFFICE, FER CHRISSAKE!
THIS OXYGEN PLANT AND ALL THE REFUGEES WERE SAVED, THANKS TO HER!!
DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT?!
LIEUTENANT GUNNAN!
YOU'RE OKAY! THAT'S GREAT!
I THOUGHT MAYBE THEY'D SHOT YOU...
WHAT A GOOF BALL
PSST, HEY
IS SHE OKAY?
LT MACLUTH?
WELL ER
I THINK SO...

YOU WERE IN A FAR MORE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION THAN YOU REALIZED..
...YOU KNOW.
FOR WHATEVER REASON...
..COULD HAVE GIVEN ISHTAR THE EXCUSE THEY WERE LOOKING FOR.
A SINGLE BULLET FIRED BY YOUR TROOPS WOULD'VE SPELLED DISASTER.
A SINGLE BULLET...
HISTORY'S FULL OF EXAMPLES.
A SINGLE GUNSHOT CAN TRIGGER EARTHSHAKING EVENTS
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT, TOO, SIR?
SO...
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF BELIEF.
IT'S A MATTER OF TIME.
SOONER OR LATER...
WE WILL HAVE TO FIGHT ISHTAR

WHMPH
BRMMM

BASE, THIS IS ZERO-ONE, HEADING BACK!
BRMMM
I'VE FOUND ZERO-SEVEN!
HE'S WITH ME!
GIVE ME THE STATUS OF THE OTHERS!!
HOW'S ONE-SIX?
...
I SEE.
WHAT ABOUT ONE-NINE?
DOUBLE-TWO?
AND TWO-FIVE?
VRMMM
YOU DON'T KNOW?!
OPEN THE FREQUENCY AND CALL THEM!!
THE ENEMY'S LONG SINCE WITH-DRAWN!!
Y-YES, SIR...

....
COM-MANDER! COLONEL SIMS--
--WANTS A REPORT ON THE BATTLE RESULTS SO FAR...
RESULTS?!
THERE'S PLENTY OF RESULTS--
--FOR THE COLONEL TO SEE OUT HERE!
IF HE'S IN A HURRY TO GET SOME NUMBERS
TELL HIM TO COME OUT OF THERE AND COUNT THE BODIES HIMSELF!
....
BRMMMM

KOFF
.....
YOU CRYING, SENO?
HELL, NO!!
IT'S THE RAIN...
IF YOU SAY SO
IT'S THE TRUTH!
I'M NOT CRY-ING!!
THE RAIN... IT'S COLD...
DAMN.
BRMMMM

WHAT HAPPENED TO TWO-NINE?!
WELL?!
CALL HER! CALL TWO-NINE!!
BRMMMM
JACK THE COM UNIT UP TO FULL POWER AND FIND HER!!

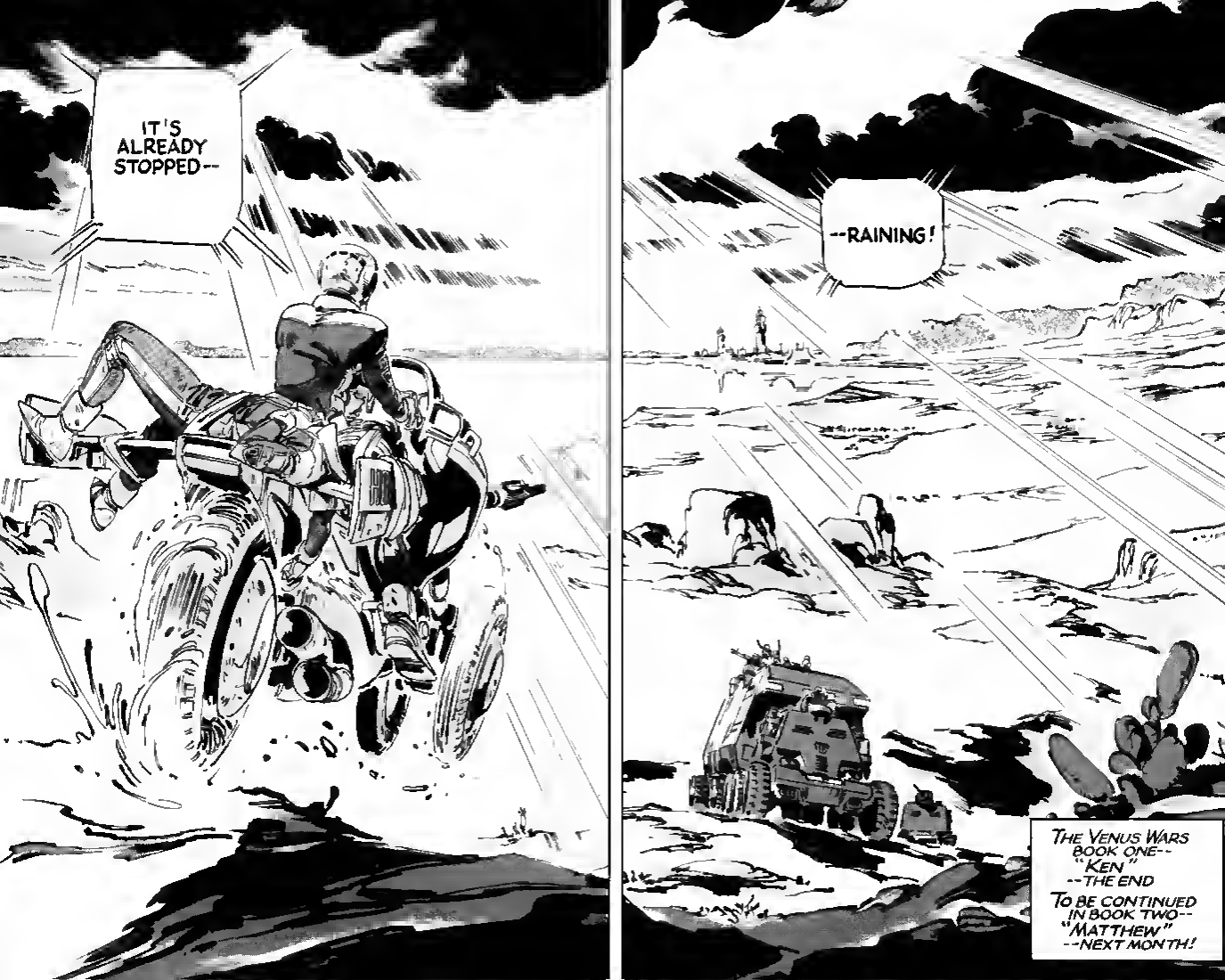
HEY! STOP PUSHING!!
GET BACK! YOU'RE INTERFERING WITH OPERATIONS!
GOD DAMN IT!!
BACK OFF!! YA DUMB KIDS!!
REALLY?!
KEN'S REALLY OKAY?!
YER GETTIN' IN THE WAY!

ATTENTION!!
THIS IS THE OFFICIAL COUNT!
LEMME SEE HERE...
THE HOUND RETURNEES ARE... NUMBERS ZERO-ONE, ONE-SIX, ONE-NINE, TWO-TWO! ALSO... TWO-EIGHT! THREE-ONE! THREE-SIX... AND THREE-SEVEN!...
ZERO-SEVEN AND THREE-THREE ARE INJURED BUT HAVE BEEN RESCUED!
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW!
....
LT.
I'M SO GLAD!
THEY SAID HE'S INJURED... BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
I'LL TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF HIM THIS TIME..
..AND I'LL NEVER LET HIM GO... NEVER...

WHERE'S MIRANDA?
MIRANDA?
YEAH... GEE...
ROB! GO FIND MIRANDA!
OK!
TELL HER KEN'S OKAY! HE'S FINE!!
AAAAHH!
AND HERE I THOUGHT NOTHING GOOD COULD EVER HAPPEN TO US...
..BUT IT WASN'T TRUE, WAS IT?
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY IN MY LIFE!
WOW...
NOW EVERY-THING'S GONNA GET BETTER FOR SURE!

MIRANDA..
YOU MEAN TWO-NINE?
I JUST TOLD BASE TO CALL HER...
NEVER MIND...
SHE...
SHE'S DEAD
LIEUTEN-ANT...
MIRANDA'S DEAD...
MIKE, TOO...

BUT...
BRMMM
WE'RE STILL ALIVE...
YEAH..
FOR THE TIME BEING, ANY-WAY...
IT'S STRANGE...
SOME-HOW...
.....
ARE YOU CRYING?
N-NO!
IT... IT'S THE RAIN...
LIAR...
BRMMMM


IT'S ALREADY STOPPED--
--RAINING!
THE VENUS WARS BOOK ONE-- "KEN" --THE END
TO BE CONTINUED IN BOOK TWO-- "MATTHEW" --NEXT MONTH!